

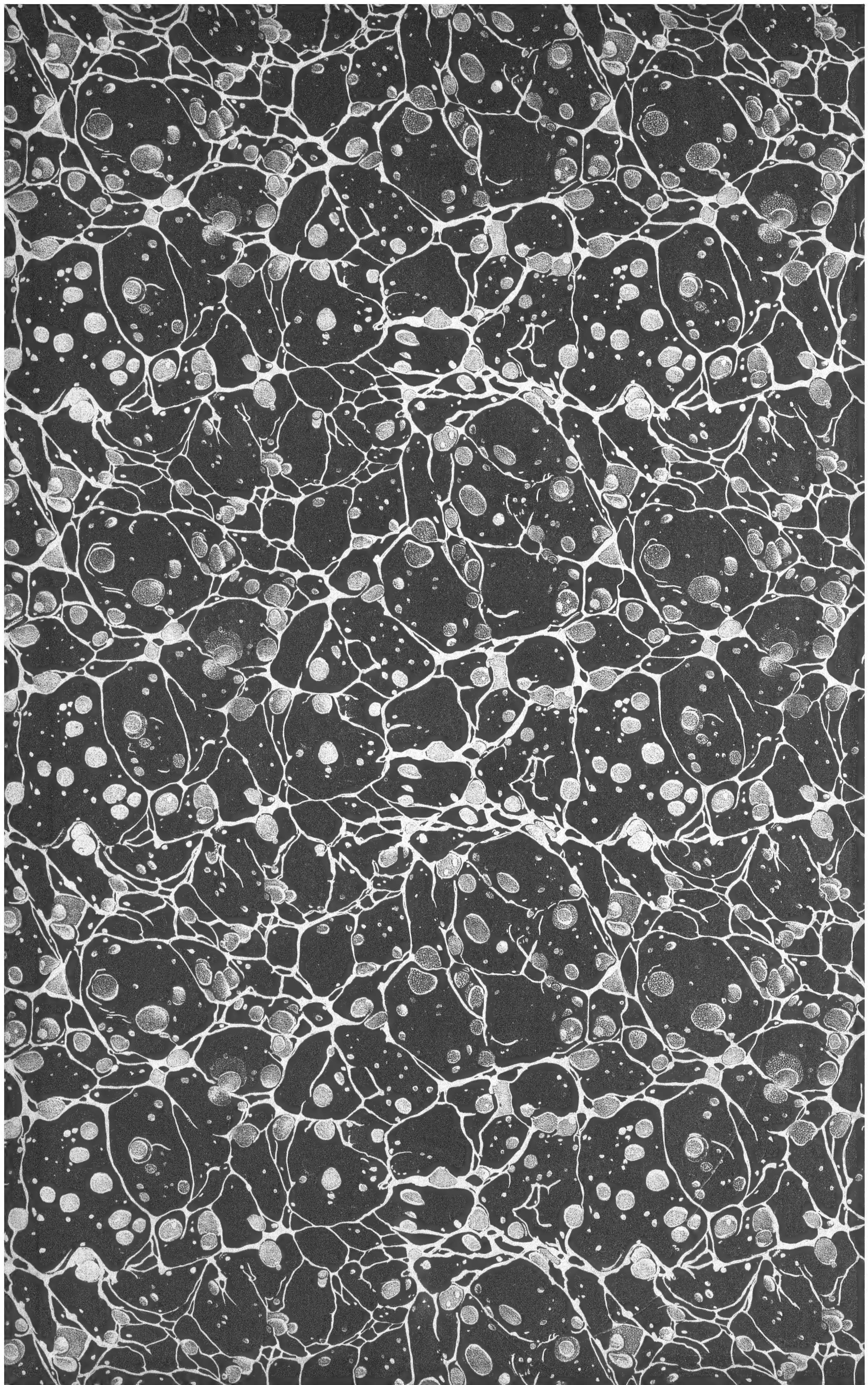
GRANDE PRAIRIE HERALD

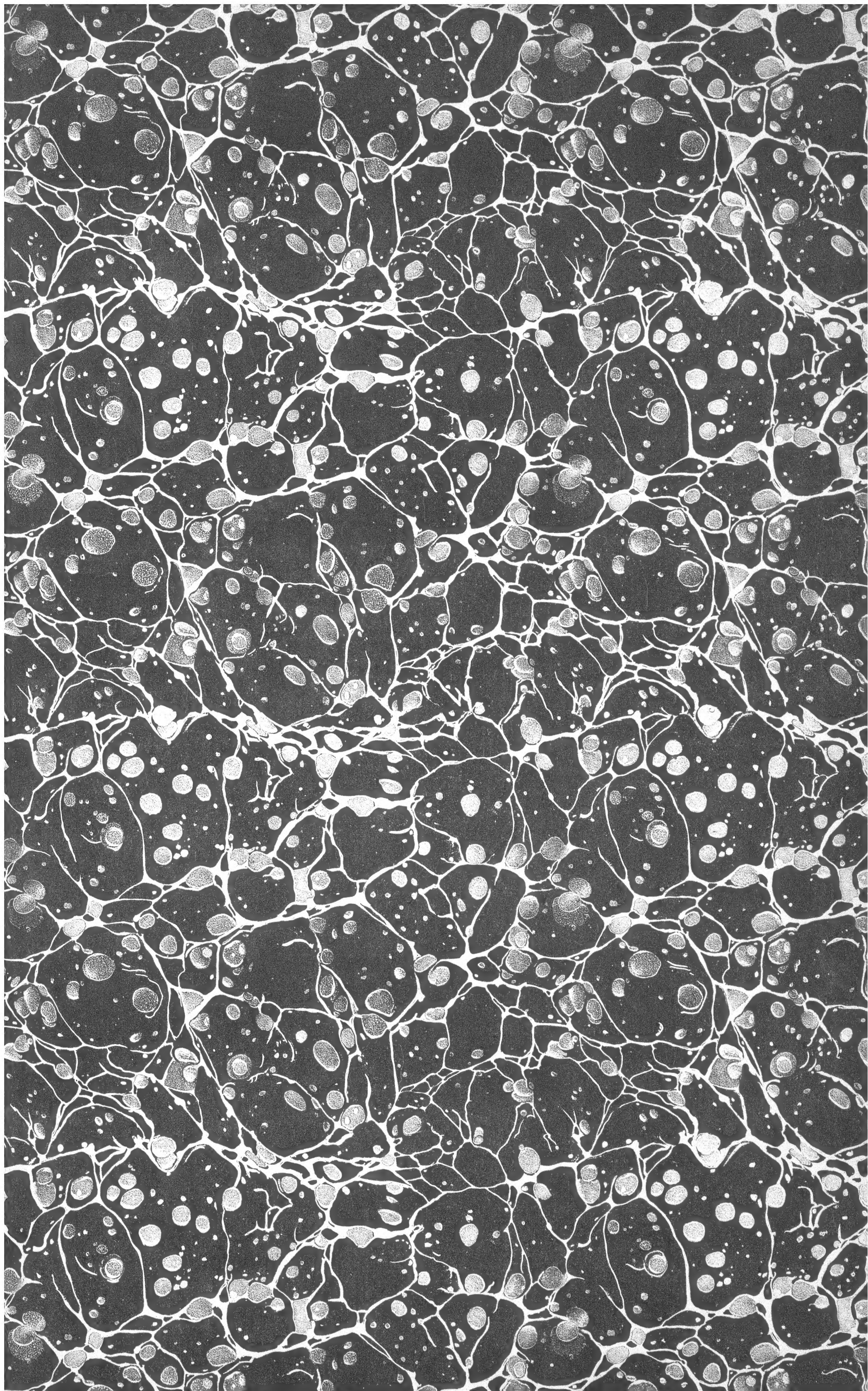


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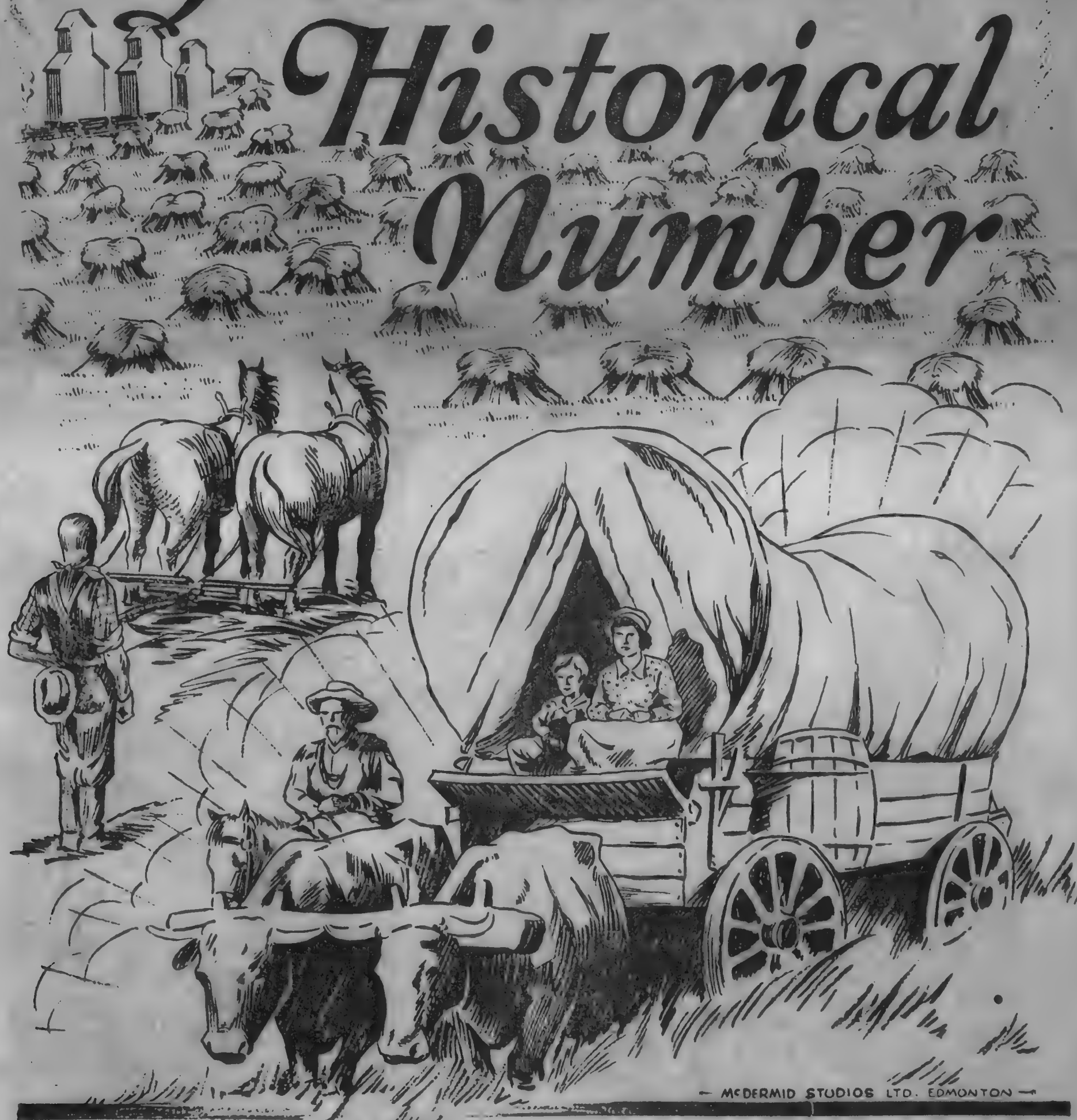
"IN THE SERVICE OF THE GREAT PEACE RIVER COUNTRY"

VOL. XXII. No. 42

GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1934

SINGLE COPY 25c

Pioneer Historical Number

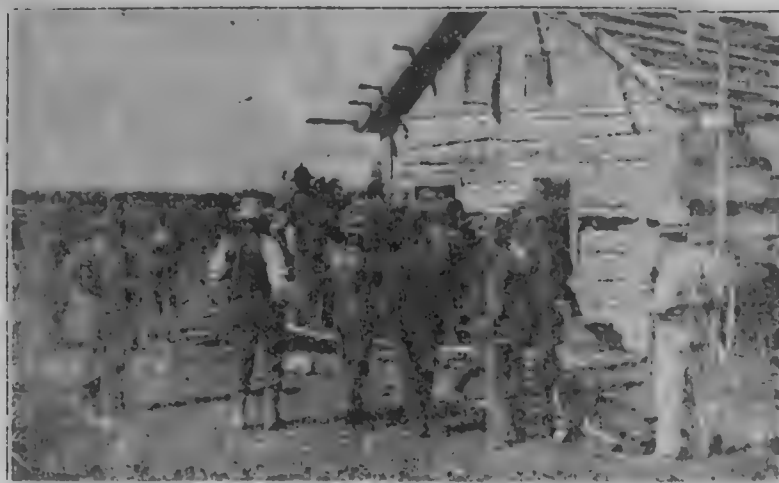


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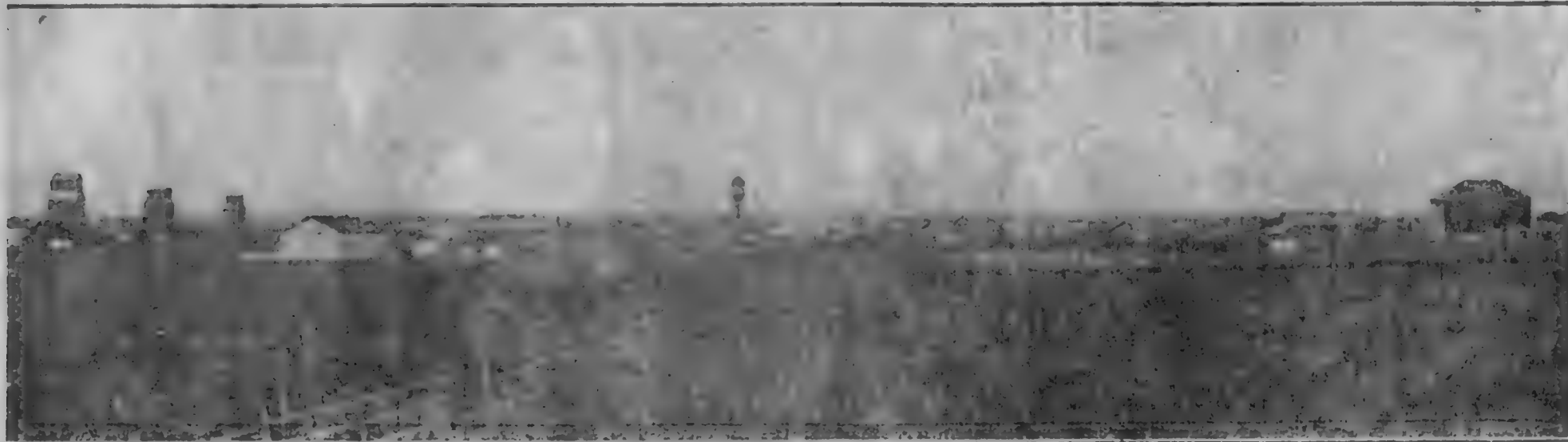
The Steady Progress of Grande Prairie Town



Grande Prairie, 1908. The above building, known as the Bredin Hotel, and the Roman Catholic Mission were the only buildings at that time.



Grande Prairie, 1911. The above shows work on the erection of the first Dominion Lands Office building, 1911.



Panoramic view of Grande Prairie town, 1920



Grande Prairie's Main Business Street, 1925



Aerial View of the Business Section of Grande Prairie town, taken 1930, by the Grande Prairie Herald

The Early Municipal Record of Grande Prairie

(By J. H. E. Fitzallen)

I am greatly flattered, and ordinarily I would be more than delighted to contribute as requested, an historical sketch of the town of Grande Prairie. However, it is some twelve years since I was last in the Peace River country and I am therefore compelled to trust to a none too trustworthy memory.

Twenty-two years ago, I was on the Edson Trail. My first view of Grande Prairie was obtained on an exceedingly cold day in February, 1914. The hamlet, as I believe it was called at that time, consisted of a half dozen or more buildings, some of log and some of rough lumber construction. The population of the hamlet was, I should judge from 25 to 50 souls. I was told at the time that altogether, and this is of importance, there were some five thousand settlers in the Grande Prairie district. That was in the year 1914. These people were not homesteaders in the ordinary sense. Their coming had not been made possible by Government grants or other forms of assistance. On the other hand, they were almost entirely people who had been successful elsewhere, and were willing to invest that capital, together with a portion at least of the best years of their lives, in the building of a last great west. They were necessarily people of means, because before starting on the adventure, they were fully advised that they could expect or hope for nothing other than a continual outlay with no compensating income, for a period of at least several years.

It was people of this type, and of this category, that comprised the trek into the Grande Prairie country that commencing in 1908 continued through until 1916.

During the two weeks spent on the inward journey over the Edson Trail, I never at any time remember being out of sight of a pioneer's outfit. And these were usually, complete outfits. Full lines of machinery, live stock, household equipment including in several instances at least, pianos, gramophones, and other contraptions that go to the making of genuine homes. I well remember one outfit that was loaded with hardwood that was designed to become the flooring of Cecil (Deep-Creek) Johnston's log home midway between Grande Prairie and the Smoky.

The community thus established, was, it should be remembered, to all practical purposes entirely cut off by a two hundred and fifty miles of wilderness of alternating hills and muskeg from the outside world for at least eight months of each and every year. Mail got through by pack horses with fair regularity throughout the year it is true, but the freight outfit that got caught on the trail by an early spring thaw was stuck and stayed stuck until the white blanket of winter again settled over the land. The isolation from outside influences and outside connection, thus existent, lent itself to the creation of a community spirit and community brotherhood, that has had few counter-parts in American history.

But while I have said that the community was established without Government or other outside assistance, the five thousand or more settlers who comprised the community did have one very definite promise, and it was on this that they based their faith and their hopes. They were promised direct and early transportation facilities to both Edmonton and the Coast. This has been and may be disputed but it is nevertheless true. In 1913 the Canadian North-Western Railway was under construction from Edmonton north-westerly. The end of which was in the vicinity

of Whitecourt. A cache for bridge builders was housed at the Big Smoky just 25 miles east of Grande Prairie. More important still, the Government of the Province of Alberta had guaranteed the bonds of the Canadian Northwestern to the tune of \$20,000, per mile for the express purpose of carrying the steel to and through Grande Prairie to the B.C. Boundary. Furthermore the bonds so guaranteed were actually sold. The fact that the money was used improperly for other purposes has of course become history. The point I am endeavoring to make is that, even at that early date, the settlers of the Grande Prairie country had a definite



HIS WORSHIP MAYOR TOOHEY
Chief Magistrate of Grande
Prairie During the Past
Two Years.

promise of a direct outlet. The Pacific and Great Eastern Railway was likewise under construction under like guarantees, and with these two undertakings then underway, settlement of the country proceeded with the outbreak of war, both undertakings were abandoned.

While the foregoing may appear irrelevant to an historical sketch of the town of Grande Prairie itself, such is not the case as those two (since defunct) railway undertakings very definitely affected the trend of settlement. Lands adjacent to the Canadian Northwestern right-of-way were usually the first to be homesteaded. Consequently, early settlement was to an extent confined to a comparatively narrow strip extending from the Smoky north-westerly. The settlers, so located, looked with confidence to the enjoyment of direct rail facilities with both eastern and western outlets at a then early date. It was this justifiable faith that led to the plotting of the Grande Prairie townsite. Located on the C.N. right-of-way midway between the Smoky and the brush country to the west, it became the heart of the then settled district. More than one saw-mill outfit two sets of flour milling equipment, as well as the presses of the *Herald* and *Frontier Signal* came over the Trail prior to 1914, and all contributed materially to the building of a frontier centre. Railway development was regarded as being merely delayed rather than abandoned. However while both the Canadian North-western and the Pacific and Great Eastern were inactive the MacArthur line was pushing steadily northward, circling and winding to tap timber berths. It is true, but generally progressing in the direction of the Peace. A branch intended at the time to reach the B.C. boundary was constructed westerly from Mc Lennan but actually only cut as far as Spirit River. The whole of the line including this branch completely circumvented the Grande Prairie district. Thereby a temporary measure a

branch of this branch, was extended southerly from Spirit River to Grande Prairie, reaching the latter point in 1916.

The entry of this branch from the North was hailed with delight. But even then there were those who viewed this development with misgiving. While affording temporary and welcome relief, it was obvious that the needs of the country could not thereby be adequately served. And it was equally obvious that the entry of this branch of a branch, indicated indefinite postponement of either or both of the other projects that would have permanently solved the transportation problem of the Grande Prairie country.

However, the entry of this branch from the north (instead of the south) brought with it a boom. Lots changed hands readily at fancy figures in the years of 1916 to 1918. The hamlet became incorporated as a village. J. E. Taft, who then operated a meat packing plant, a butcher shop, and real estate office, became the first reeve. His office was used as the village office, and A. C. McEachern became the first secretary-treasurer. During the term of office of Mr. Taft, the first civic improvements were undertaken. The first municipal well was put down, and I believe continues in use. A chemical engine was obtained, and a start made in the construction of plank walks.

In 1916, a new council, consisting of the late H. F. Hall as reeve with Geo. Crummy and R. L. Michaelis as Councillors took office. At this time the writer returned to Grande Prairie from Lake Saskatoon and took over the office of secretary-treasurer from which Mr. McEachern had resigned. At this date, Chas. Spencer was chairman of the School Board and with A. M. Hunsford and J. Lambert as Trustees, was planning the erection of the splendid school building that you have today. This it should be noted, was the first building of permanent type to be erected in the Peace River country. As secretary of the School Board, which office I also took over, I cannot but recall the untiring effort and personal sacrifice made by Mr. Spencer in furtherance of this project. The plans and specifications of the building were of his own drawing, and he personally supervised the erection of the work without hope of reward other than that which comes from the knowledge of

public service faithfully performed.

Members of the Village Council were equally untiring. Day after day, R. L. Michaelis himself rode the grader, and gave to the ratepayers a splendid system of streets and much needed drainage. The laying out of the "Boulevard" was one of his works. George Crummy watched the purse strings, and could be counted on to exercise the necessary restraint at exactly the right time. The kindly and genial personality of the

late Herb Hall, fitted him well for the Reeveship and was greatly instrumental in cementing the then existing factions into one little body intent on advancing the welfare of the community. Meanwhile, and following the entry of the railway several rival townsites had sprung up, and were making a bid for leadership. Sensing this the Village Council realized that Grande Prairie must step boldly forward to ensure its future as the distributing centre of the district. This attitude was adopted. Desirable improvements were made without hesitation. Consequently the name of Grande Prairie became synonymous with progress. Fire protection was urgently demanded. Insurance rates had become ruinously high. It was suggested that an elevated tank be secured. But it was found that the cost of such was thirty-five thousand dollars f.o.b. Pittsburg a sum entirely beyond the means of the village. As an alternative it was decided to purchase a fire engine which would pump direct from the well and deliver water through a line of hose. Difficulty then arose in securing authority to issue the necessary debentures, and the Council despatched me to Edmonton to interview the Utility Commission in this connection. While there and so doing, I learned that the city had an elevated tank on 104th street, which at the time was not in use. On being advised of this by wire council authorized me to submit an offer to the city. As a result the tank was dismantled and re-erected in Grande Prairie at a total cost inclusive of water mains, of something less than fourteen thousand dollars. In addition to enabling us to secure a reduction in insurance rates, the new fire protective system repeatedly saved the village from

(Continued on page four)

OUR PIONEERS' NUMBER

In preparing and publishing this Pioneers' Historical Number, the *Grande Prairie Herald* has made an endeavor to record the great work done by the early pioneers whose hardihood, foresight and pluck urged them to brave the early trail over several hundred miles of wilderness to push their way into the prairies of the South Peace River country, here to establish their homes and to develop farms that have become the wonder of Western Canada, establishing a reputation for grain and seed growing that has become the envy of grain growers the continent over.

Further delay in recognition of the great work done by these pioneers would be regrettable. Already many of the records of the early days of settlement are becoming obscured, and while the publishers have spent two years in an effort to compile reliable information it has been found in all too many instances that folklore is sometimes substituted for fact, and the humorous side of many events has in too many cases overshadowed the more important background of many happenings, that were more or less important in the vast work of development that was taking place.

Photographs reproduced on these pages depict in a vivid manner the determination of these pioneers in pushing their way over the rough wilderness that lies between the older settled parts of the province and the Peace River country—how they travelled by winter trails over muskegs and through a wild country that could not be traversed except when frozen, camping at night in some makeshift cabin if one were available or alongside the trail where night overtook them.

But the brighter side of the story is also shown in the fruits of their accomplishments—the magnificent farms that have been developed from the rolling prairies of the Peace, and the thriving towns and trading and shipping centers that have sprung up to cater to the needs of a great people whose homes have spread far and wide over the Great Peace River country.

Together with the record of this development over the past 21 years will be found interspersed the stories of individual pioneers whose activities have brought them to the forefront in the story of the Grande Prairie's marvellous development. Brevity in the personal records has been compulsory for two very opposite reasons, the one that sufficient facts are not now available from which to prepare a more complete historical sketch, and the other that in some instances the life story of an individual would be found so full of activities having a direct bearing on the growth of the north country that a complete story would carry into far more space than could well be allotted.



Grande Prairie Town Hall and Fire Station.

Municipal Record of Grande Prairie

(Continued from Page Three)

destruction during the ensuing two years, and at the same time lent to the town an atmosphere of permanence and stability, rearing as it did to its towering height among what was then but a conglomeration of shacks. Grande Prairie thus became the only community in the north offering anything in the way of fire protection to the prospective merchant or wholesaler.

About this time a move was got under way to have the village incorporated as a town. The Government was petitioned accordingly, and a census which I took under the scrutiny of an Inspector from the Department of Municipal Affairs, disclosed a population of 1040, a surplus of a scant 40 over the legal requirement. An election for Town Council was shortly thereafter held, and in June, 1917, R. L. Michaels took office as Grande Prairie's first mayor. I am sorry I can't recall the names of the six Councillors elected at the time. A year earlier steps were taken to incorporate a Board of Trade. In securing incorporation under Dominion Charter we included in the area represented by the organization, the whole of the Grande Prairie Land District and so became the only official recognized body of the kind in the country. Whether A. W. Pentland or Jack Thomson was the first President or not I cannot remember, but both filled the office with energy and enthusiasm during those early days, and contributed greatly to the prestige of Grande Prairie.

Meanwhile, the citizens had determined to have electric light. A meeting was held in a little house which I occupied. A company was there formed under the Presidency of A. R.

McMillan, stock was sold locally, and after many disappointments a plant was finally installed and ultimately passed to the ownership of the town. In 1920 the fire apparatus and town office which had been housed in the building owned by Jimmy Oliver was removed to the Town hall which was erected in that year and continues to serve the purpose.

During the years of which I write and until 1922, we had our ups and downs. During all of those years 1914 to 1922 a vigorous and continuous fight was waged for the rail facilities that were and are so necessary and desirable. I know that the fight has been carried on with equal or greater vigour since. But personally, I felt (and wrote) that joint ownership of the E.D. & B.C.Ry. would spell death to the just claims of the people of town and district. I still think I was right.

In conclusion permit me to say that it has afforded me real pleasure to recall the associations I was privileged to enjoy during the years under review. As an occasional reader of the *Herald* I know that now as then the citizens of Grande Prairie afford an unequalled example of progressiveness and faith. May I join in the sincere hope that these will yet bear fruit.

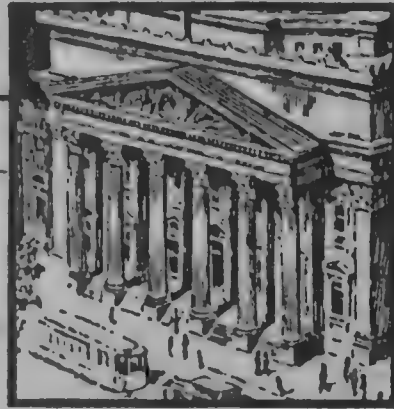
GEO. COURTNEY DAVIS

George C. Davis was born at Tynehead, Ontario, on August 11th, 1893, the son of the late Logan W. and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis of Cloverdale, B.C.

He came to Beaver Lodge over the Edson Trail early in 1912, taking up land on 15-71-10. In the fall of 1915 Mr. Davis enlisted in the 66th Batt. and left for overseas in May, 1916.

On May 23rd, 1916, he succumbed to pneumonia and was buried at Shorncliffe, England.

One sister, Mrs. F. B. Dixon resides at Olds.



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Just Out!

NEW 1935

PHILCO

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Model of American walnut with curved side panels in three-toned shading. The 5-tube machines receive all standard broadcasts, police calls and some amateur and aircraft calls. Prices on the 5-tube models are as follows:

BABY GRAND \$74.20 CONSOLE \$94.20

These prices include battery equipment as follows:

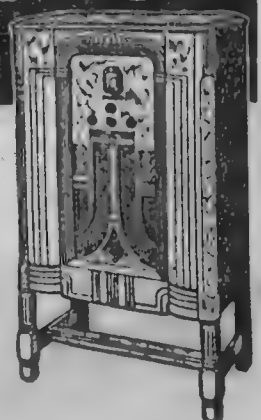
3 No. 486 "B" Batteries 2 No. 781 "C" Batteries
1 2-Volt Willard "A"

If No. 870 "B" batteries supplied, prices are correspondingly lower.

ELECTRIC MODELS

Ranging in prices from \$42.95 (Model 359S 4-tube) to \$280, the Beautiful ALL-WAVE 11-tube Model—the greatest \$ for \$ value in Radio History. See your local dealer for full details of the various models and prices.

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PHILCO



This new marvellous seven-tube PHILCO ALL-WAVE battery Receiver is available in two models—Baby Grand as illustrated and a beautiful Six-Legged Cabinet Model. The machines receive all standard and ALL short-wave stations. Prices (which include 3 No. 486 "B" batteries, 2 "C" batteries and 2-volt Willard "A" Battery) are as follows:

No. 334 Console \$153.15

No. 334 Baby Grand \$117.15

Prices correspondingly lower if No. 870 "B" Batteries supplied.

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Hospital Services Are Pride of The North Country

Mrs. Maude Clifford Made Her Home the First Local Hospital

Her Home At Flying Shot Sheltered First Patients Needing Care

In the record of first pioneers of the different walks of life, there can be no doubt to the position given Mrs. Maude Westcott Clifford, as the first of the pioneer women of this great north country.

While the story of Mrs. Clifford is to be found in more de-



MRS. MAUDE W. CLIFFORD First Nurse of the north country and her daughter, Hilda, the first white child born in the Grande Prairie District. Hilda is now Mrs. H. H. Gardner, of South Edmonton.

tall on page 4 of section three of this edition, it is of particular interest here that Mrs. Clifford was the first (voluntary) district nurse of the Grande Prairie district, and made her home the first hospital, as it also became the first court room and was the first place at which Anglican church services were held in the prairie.

Shortly after her arrival in the district in 1906 Mrs. Clifford attended to a patient brought to her home by a Roman Catholic priest from Lake Saskatoon, ten miles distant. This patient was nursed back to health in Mrs. Clifford's home.

In late December, 1907, there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford their first daughter, and the first white child born in the district. Mother and daughter are shown in the accompanying picture.

Later, with the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Clifford, whose other duties were becoming more numerous, gave place to Mrs. Forbes, whose record of unselfish devotion to the needs of the sick is a story in itself.

William Sharpe Is Capable Executive Head of Hospital

Possibly the most outstanding authority on municipal hospital operation in the north country is William Sharpe, who for the past four years has presided as chairman of the board of managers of the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital.

Keenly interested in hospital affairs for many years, his acquisition to the board of management has proved most valuable. A considerable proportion of his time is devoted to intelligent and efficient supervision of this growing and progressive institution.

Before coming to the hospital board, Mr. Sharpe had served two years as town councillor. (Continued on page six)

A Glimpse of the Peace River Valley

By ELIZABETH PEARSTON, O.B.E., (1931)

(Reprinted by special permission from Nurses' Alumnae Annual (1931))

The Peace River country! One wonders what the fascination is.

After spending eighteen months in the country it is more than fascination—it seems to hold one. Many are the tales of hardship and endurance of the people despite the many obstacles which they have encountered. The country itself is beautiful from the top of Richmond Hill, about six miles west of Grande Prairie one never tires of just looking at the hills and lakes.

The history of the hospital alone is just a little story of the self-sacrifice and vision of the pioneers of the country and so far as the nurses are concerned, has a definite influence in urging them to contribute their share, and so keep the history unsullied and of lasting benefit.

In the spring of 1910 Dr. Alexander Forbes and Mrs. Agnes Forbes of the Presbyterian Mission, came to the country by canoe. They encountered many hardships, but nothing daunted they progressed on their way. They settled that year at Flying Shot, a few miles west of where Grande Prairie is situated today.

Mrs. Forbes was ever ready in cases of need or cases of distress, and when it so happened that one of a party of surveyors "North of the Peace" sustained an injury to his leg, he was brought to Mrs. Forbes by Dr. Montgomery for nursing care. The Forbes' home was always filled to beyond capacity, and on this occasion it was no exception to the rule, a tent was erected alongside the house, to house the patient and he was nursed back to usefulness by Mrs. Forbes.

This, so far as can be found out, was the beginning of the Municipal Hospital of Grande Prairie Number 14, as it is called today.

Mrs. Forbes continued to nurse the sick of the district and in the autumn of 1910 she found the need of help so great that Miss Agnes Baird, a graduate of a hospital in Kansas, U.S.A., joined her. Miss Baird's services were called upon from time to time throughout the whole district which covered an area of about 50 miles. One must remember that in those days there were no roads to speak of, and the only means of transit over certain parts of the country were horse back and on foot.

There are many stories of Miss Baird's resourcefulness and the following is only one incident that has been related: "Word came to Dr. Forbes of a sick man about 45 miles distant from Flying Shot and absolutely isolated. Miss Baird mounted her horse and away she went. She found the patient in dire need and suffering from advanced tuberculosis. Following another arduous trip to make arrangements for supplies, she

remained with the patient for several weeks, volunteers plying back and forth from Flying Shot with supplies."

During the winter of 1910 Dr. Forbes moved to Grande Prairie where he had already staked ground for church purposes. A log church was built in Grande Prairie in the summer of 1911, and later in that year the manse was also built.

The need of a hospital was becoming greater each month and when the manse itself, tents on the lawn, and the canoe (which had brought the Forbes' into the country) could no longer accommodate the sick people of the district, a long log room was added to the manse building, and this served as the hospital of the district under the joint management of Mrs. Forbes and Miss Baird. In this, as before, history repeated itself,

Forbes' time is now the Nurses' Home. Nine nurses are crowded into inadequate quarters, but there is something about the place that makes them forget the inconveniences, and they find it a haven of peace and rest after the turmoil of a heavy day. I often wish that some of you away down there in Winnipeg could look in on those happy bright young nurses sewing, reading, sleeping!!! around the fireplace. It is truly a "home" for the present, as no doubt it was to strangers in days gone by.

To continue, the building opened in 1914 was always filled and in due time it was necessary to erect a new operating room. The people of the district collected sufficient funds to meet this need, and in 1920 an operating room was built.

In 1922 the hospital was tak-



Formal Opening of the Katherine Priddle Hospital in 1914

and again the accommodation proved inadequate.

In 1913 the Home Mission Board presented a sum of money to the church to help erect a hospital for the district. After taking into consideration the cost of materials and the difficulty of getting them into the country, the amount provided seemed inadequate to cover expenses, so the people got together and a log hospital was built by voluntary aid and the sum of money donated devoted to expenses of equipment. The hospital was opened in 1914 and called the "Katherine Priddle Hospital," in memory of the daughter of a Toronto family who had subscribed funds to the Home Mission Board to assist in building the hospital. The hospital was now removed from the direct control of Mrs. Forbes, but she continued to give active support and kept closely in touch with its affairs until her death in 1917. Might I mention here that the influence of this wonderful woman still seems to hover us. The "oldtimers" of the district never tire of telling of her kindness and unselfishness, and further the log manse that housed so many of the unfortunates of the district in Dr.

en over by the Municipality under the supervision of the Department of Health. In 1927 an enlarged scheme was floated to finance the building of a new hospital, and this in itself would make an interesting story.

In the spring of 1929 the present up-to-date brick building was opened, the Superintendent of Nurses being Miss Hibbs (now Mrs. Louis Fredette) a graduate of Vancouver General Hospital, who had been matron for some years in the old hospital.

The hospital of today stands a little to the east of the site of the old hospital, and is about a half mile from the town of Grande Prairie. It has a capacity of forty beds, but the record capacity is 51; this necessitated getting convalescent patients out of their respective beds and putting them in temporary cots in the corridor. The public wards are bright rooms equipped with Fowler and Gatch beds and each bed screened. Sun porches open off both wards. The maternity wards have two and three beds to a room. The nursery is equipped for 12 babies. The operating room and case room are up-to-date and with (Continued on page six)

Miss Pearston, O.B.E. Matron of Hospital Honored By The King

Signal honor was conferred upon Miss Elizabeth Pearston, matron of the Grande Prairie hospital, and through her upon the staff and the nursing profession of the district generally when on New Year's Day, 1934 Miss Pearston was included in the King's honours list, being invested with the rank of the Order of the British Empire.



Dame Pearston, O.B.E., was born and reared near Rothes, in the north of Scotland, and completed her education in the noted finishing school at Alloa, near Glasgow.

Upon coming to Western Canada Miss Pearston was first connected with a legal firm in Winnipeg, later entering training for the nursing profession in the Winnipeg General Hospital, graduating as a Royal Nurse in 1924. This was followed by a further post graduate course covering the executive features of hospital management. Miss Pearston came to Grande Prairie in 1929 to take over the duties of matron of the Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital, a post which she has filled with the highest credit to herself and the capable staff of nurses under her management. Her outstanding executive and professional ability have been of marked influence in the great success of Grande Prairie's fine hospital.

Cause For Pride In Capable Management Municipal Hospital

The Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital District No. 14, management rests in the hands of eleven men, elected by the ratepayers of the whole district.

Personnel of the Board at this time is as follows: Wm. Sharpe, B. T. Ryley, John Harris, C. C. Ralston, W. H. Rogers, Gordon Sherk, C. O. Pool, E. C. Robson, Gust Maple, Capt. Gilbert Blake and John Stephenson. J. E. Murphy, who took over the duties of secretary in 1931, has proved a most efficient official in direct charge of financial management.

During the four years in which Mr. Sharpe has served on the Board he has been chosen by his colleagues to preside as chairman. It is therefore fitting that any story of the hospital should also include a few comments by the Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Sharpe, after four years in the service of the ratepayers as a member of the Board, is more convinced than ever that the Municipal Hospital idea is the best method of caring for the sick and afflicted yet made available to the people of the Peace River.

To his mind, it is but reasonable that residents well and sound in body should assist by the payment of a reasonable hospital tax, in aiding their less fortunate neighbors afflicted with illness or suffering incapacity through accidental causes.

Another reason Mr. Sharpe is a firm believer in the idea is that the ownership and management of the Municipal Hospital rests in the hands of the taxpayers, through their elected representatives, the Board of (Continued on page six)



Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital No. 14 This hospital is maintained by one of the largest Municipal Hospital Districts in the province

A Glimpse of the Peace River Valley

(Continued from Page Five)

the equipment we have, we manage to maintain a technique which I know does credit to our training schools. All the nurses are graduates from accredited schools and there are six of the medical profession who use the hospital. There is still a great deal to be accomplished in this hospital of the people and if we are humble in our demands at the present time because of financial depression we know that when the time comes to expand the people of the district will be ready to give their support in furthering the efforts of those concerned to adequately care for the sick of their community.

It will, no doubt be of interest to the readers of the Winnipeg General Hospital Alumnae Magazine to know that Mrs. Little (Janet Gibson, 1911), wife of Dr. E. L. Little, one of our attending physicians, is a graduate of the Winnipeg General Hospital; also Mrs. J. W. Sawyer (Rebecca Ayr, 1910) wife of the former Secretary-Treasurer of the Hospital. Another item of interest is that Miss Dalgleish (now Mrs. J. M. Kerr), assistant superintendent of Nurses, is a graduate of Vancouver General Hospital, and trained under Miss Ellis, so altogether we feel we have the support and sympathy of the Winnipeg General Hospital.

Cause for Pride In Hospital Management

(Continued from Page Five)

Managers. This system permits the taxpayers to all times remain in close touch and contact with the operation of their own hospital.

"While the Municipal Hospital idea is comparatively new to our people in the north country," said Mr. Sharpe, "it would seem to me there exists a wonderful opportunity to arise to the occasion and prove our ability to make a real success of the venture."

"The Board always welcomes any constructive suggestions in connection with the management of your hospital and many suggestions have been put into practical use."

"May I offer another thought, that if any ratepayer, capable and efficient is requested by his neighbors to become a member of the Board, that he not lightly regard the suggestion, but consider it rather as an obligation to his district to so serve. New ideas are constantly being brought forward, calling for sagacity and clear thinking before they are adopted or rejected and so it is more than possible that new members might render invaluable assistance in the further building up and safeguarding of your Municipal Hospital."

Mr. Sharpe believed it fitting that the sincere appreciation of the loyal manner in which ratepayers, and others concerned, have supported your representatives and employees, should be expressed at this time on behalf of the Matron, her capable and efficient staff and the Board of Managers.

Only through the splendid co-operation extended by the ratepayers during the changing conditions of recent times has it been possible to bring about the substantial, and it is believed gratifying, reductions in hospitalization charges.

The confidence reposed in the staff and management by the ratepayers has at all times acted as an incentive toward greater personal sacrifices and efforts on the part of the personnel, in order to justify that confidence and carry on the

great work of caring for the sick which was so capably started by the Reverend and Mrs. Forbes more than twenty years ago.

To those individuals and organizations who so thoughtfully donated furnishings, equipment and many other items designed to make the trying periods spent in hospital by the ailing, more comfortable, goes the heartfelt appreciation of both staff and management.

In closing, it should not be out of place to say that the ratepayers of Grande Prairie Municipal Hospital District No. 14 have much to be proud of in the ownership and capable management and operation of one of the finest publicly owned institutions to be found in the Province of Alberta.

Wm. SHARPE

(Continued from Page Five)

followed by seven years as Mayor. To town affairs, as subsequently to hospital business Mr. Sharpe gave freely of his time and experience.

Just how he has managed to find the time to make a success of his growing machinery business, as district distributor and local dealer for the Massey-Harris Company since 1919, can only be explained by the amount of midnight oil he has continued to burn.

Mr. Sharpe was born in the

North Bay region of Ontario. After ten years in Saskatchewan, he came to the Grande Prairie district in 1911, settling on a farm near Hermit Lake. In 1919 he removed to town to open up the machinery business. In 1927 he received the appointment of district distributor. A year later he erected a 40x80 steel warehouse, which two years later was enlarged to its present size of 70x132, one of the finest machinery warehouses in the whole north country.

In 1922 Mrs. Mary Sharpe, who also was Ontario born, passed away. Four years later Mr. Sharpe married Miss Pearl Hillborne, a member of the nursing staff of the local hospital, and their union has been blessed with three fine children.

Mr. Sharpe's mother and father came here in 1925 but the latter passed on a few months later. Mrs. Sharpe, Sr., makes her home with her younger son, G. R. Sharpe at Sexsmith.

Mr. Sharpe has one brother in New Brunswick and another at North Battleford, where he is principal of the Collegiate Institute. Six sisters, all married, reside in Western Canada.

Geo. Edwin CASSON

George Casson, now residing in Victoria, B.C., came to the Peace River and settled on a

homestead near the old town-site of Bezanson, on the Smoky River, in February, 1912.

Leaving his homestead in June, 1915, when the Empire's call to arms was heard, he boated down the Smoky River to where the Northern Alberta Railway bridge now stands, walked twelve miles to steelhead, got into a box car and five days later arrived at Edmonton where he immediately enlisted with the 66th Batt. In 1916 he was wounded in France and after several months in hospital was sent back to Grande Prairie in October of 1917 as a military representative under the conscription act, serving in that capacity until the Armistice.

Early in 1919 Mr. Casson received an appointment to the Grande Prairie Land Office which position he continued until 1930 when he was transferred to Peace River, serving there until the summer of 1933. Following a short subsequent residence in Grande Prairie, he removed with his family to Victoria.

Mr. Casson was born in Hull, Yorkshire, England in 1891. While his parents are deceased, he has one brother and two sisters in England and one brother in Victoria. He was married at Edmonton in January, 1921 to Miss Anna Marie Peerenboom and they have two fine children.

Mr. & Mrs. C. R. BELL

Pell County, Ontario can well be proud of one of her native sons who has made good in the Peace River country.

Cecil Robertson Bell was one of a family of three to come to William and Anna Dodds Bell (both now deceased). A brother, Dr. Irving R. Bell and a sister, Miss Helen G. Bell reside in Edmonton.

After receiving his education in Caledon, Orangeville, Owen Sound and Collingwood, Cecil came to Edmonton in 1906. Turning to the hardware business for employment, he soon became an efficient and capable hardware man.

On New Years Day of 1913, his marriage to Miss Ena B. Ferguson was solemnized in Edmonton. They have been blessed with one lovely daughter, Miss Jean Elizabeth, born in Edson, to which point the Bells had removed the previous year.

In February, 1916, Mr. Bell accepted a position with J. E. Thomson, who shortly before had opened a hardware store in Grande Prairie.

In 1919, in partnership with C. C. Fleming, the Bell-Fleming Hardware business was opened and it has continued to be one of the leading retail establishments of Grande Prairie and district.



Bread

the food of Pioneers

"IT'S FLAVOR WINS YOUR FAVOR"

Bread has always been one of the mainstays of the Pioneers. Good Bread makes for strong, active, virile men and women—and healthy children.

The services offered in any community reflect the standard of citizenship therein, and it has been our aim to offer the people here a bakery service worthy of the town and district.

GRANDE
PRAIRIE

WATT'S BAKERY

PHONE 17

"Makers of Watt's Milk Loaf"

Commercial Development Has Been on Firm Basis

More Than Thirty Wholesale Houses Represented in G.P.

While it was possible for primitive man to live more or less to himself, modern civilization demands social activity, interchange of ideas and trade and barter. Since no man can produce all his own requirements it naturally follows that he must trade with his fellow men. Thus we find that almost the first activities of any new community are connected with trade.

Long before agricultural settlement began in the Peace River country such companies as the Hudson's Bay Company, the old North West Company and still later Revillon Freres had established trading posts where necessary supplies were traded to the Indians for the valuable furs the country produced.

With the coming of white men came independent traders established small stores, but it was not until the advent of the railway made agricultural exports possible that the mercantile development of the Peace River country began on permanent lines. As the ribbons of steel reached further and further into the north, elevators were built where the grain crops could be converted into cash. General stores were opened which carried well assorted stocks of groceries, dry goods and hardware. Banks opened their branches at what seemed strategic points throughout the district, and while permanent development of the district later indicated that some locations were not well chosen, the general trend was toward careful and sound development.

Back of all this was the all-

important fact that the north country was not developed "on a shoe string". The pioneer who came to develop farms were people of a fair amount of means, most of them well supplied with goods and equipment. Similarly the merchants who opened stores at the various shipping points were men of means, who were prepared to cater to the needs of the times. Although freight costs were high merchants availed themselves of every possible advantage, purchasing in car lots and getting costs down as far as possible.

As the trade of the district grew in volume, wholesale firms were quick to see the advantage of establishing local warehouses, and others the nature of whose business made a local warehouse impractical placed their permanent representatives in the district. Today between thirty and forty wholesales are thus represented, many of them with local warehouses carrying splendid stocks.

WHOLESALE GROCERIES

The first wholesale warehouse to be erected in Grande Prairie, was Kelly Douglas Company, established here in 1913, under the management of W. C. Pratt. Next came the Revillon wholesale, which was later taken over by Campbell, Wilson & Horne, whose present warehouse carries one of the most complete grocery stocks in the north. J. W. Pickard, local manager for Campbell, Wilson & Horne, has been with the firm many years, having been with their predecessors before the change in ownership. Mr. Pickard has

the able assistance of Mr. H. Cooper as traveller for the Peace River country. This firm also operates a large grocery wholesale in the town of Peace River, with Mr. L. F. S. Watts, formerly of Grande Prairie, as manager.

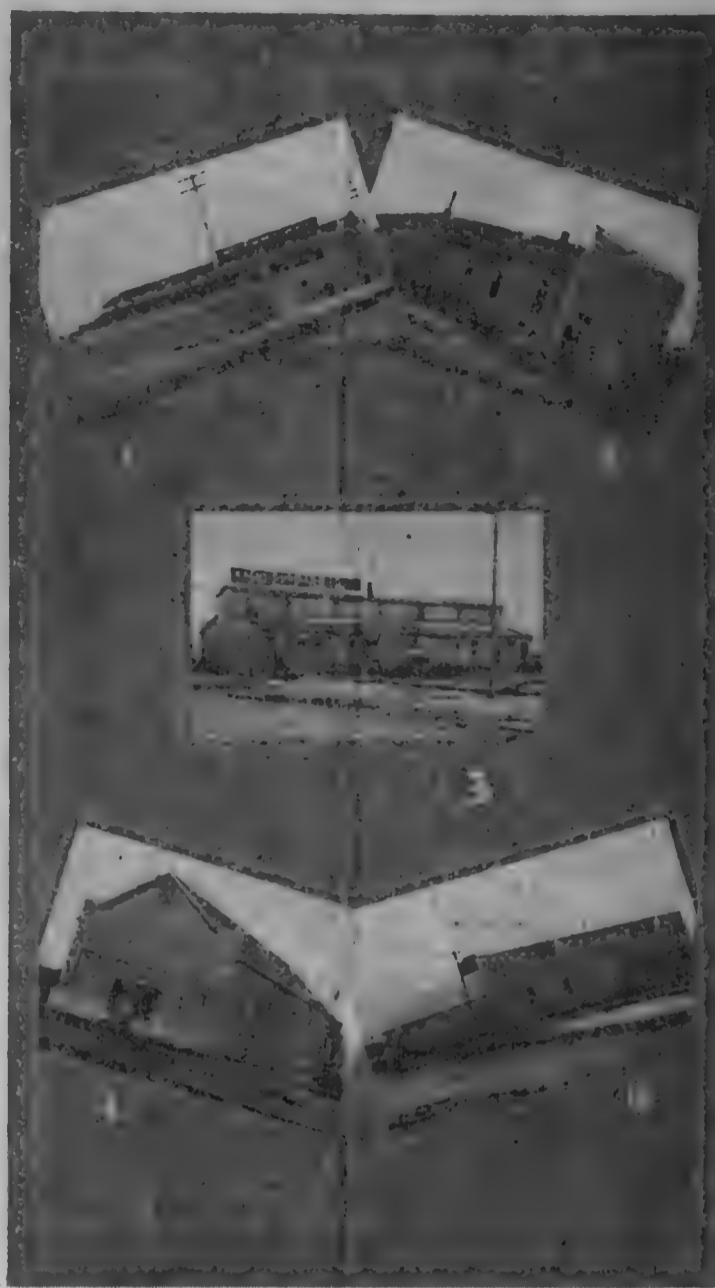
Still another of the pioneer wholesale houses of Western Canada has turned its attention actively to the Peace River country. Macdonalds Consolidated within the past few years have established no less than three wholesale grocery warehouses in the Peace River country, these being at Grande Prairie, with Mr. Fred Hickman as manager; at Peace River, with Harry Hargreaves as manager, and at Dawson Creek, where Frank Bamford is manager. Fred Steinberg, district traveller for the company, is well-known in musical circles. A Holland Dutchman by birth, his musical ability is greatly appreciated. It is interesting to note that H. W. J. Maddison, northern Alberta manager for Macdonalds Consolidated, was one of the first commercial travellers of Northern Alberta, having covered his district with a team and buggy 24 years ago, when there were but very few graded roads in the province.

WHOLESALE HARDWARE AND MACHINERY

Hardware business is well represented by local warehouses and representatives. Marshall-Wells Company have a commodious warehouse, under the capable management of Mr. Chas. Graban, who has been this company's representative in Grande Prairie since 1922.

The J. H. Ashdown Wholesale Hardware, who celebrate sixty-five years in business in Western Canada this year, are well represented in the Peace River country.

(Continued on page eight)



(1) Frontier Lumber; (2) Watt's Bakery; (3) Kelly-Douglas & Co.; (4) Elks' Hall; (5) Campbell, Wilson & Horne Warehouse

Serving the Pioneers

Who have been developing Western Canada
FOR SIXTY-FIVE YEARS

1869



1934

Since 1869, Ashdowns and Good Hardware have been synonymous terms in Western Canada. Away back 65 years ago there were only the most meagre conveniences. But even the Ashdown customers learned to expect the best from this pioneer wholesale hardware. From that time to the present the house of Ashdown has held pace with the changes and requirements constantly taking place in establishing complete supply houses at all strategic points in Western Canada.

The Peace River Country shares in this widespread service through the maintenance of our

Wholesale Hardware Office in Grande Prairie

Mr. J. M. Kerr, our Grande Prairie Representative brings direct to you the services of

Western Canada's Pioneer Wholesale Hardware

The J. H. Ashdown Hardware Co., Ltd.

WINNIPEG

CALGARY

SASKATOON

REGINA

EDMONTON

Commercial Development Has Been on Firm Basis

More Than Thirty Wholesale Houses Represented in G.P.

(Continued from Page Seven) try by the genial "Jack" Kerr, who has his headquarters in Grande Prairie and brings the service of his firm to the entire north country.

Farm and barn equipment, washing machines and similar lines are covered by the well-known firm of Beatty Bros., whose local representative, Mr. J. C. Jaegar, is well known throughout the north country.

Farm machinery companies have responded actively to the requirements of the north country, and practically all of them maintain large warehouses with very complete stocks of machinery and repairs. Their district managers are active throughout the year in looking to the needs of farmers, who are supplied promptly from local stocks. Among other firms thus established here are:

Massey-Harris Company, Wm. Sharp, local manager; J. C. Bradley, traveller.

The Oliver Company, P. A. Sharpe, local manager; J. C. Stiles, district representative.

John Deere Plow Company, N. H. Swallow, district representative.

Cockshutt Plow Company, T. Clarke, district representative.

International Harvester Company, Frank Crummy local manager, J. Littleton, district representative.

J. I. Case Company, E. C. Slump, district representative.

The National Fruit Company maintains a local warehouse for fresh and imported fruits and associated lines. H. G. Bessent, one of the earliest commercial

travellers in the Peace River country, is manager of the local house, and has the able assistance of Mr. Jack Crummy.

The Royal Fruit Wholesale, who also maintain a complete stock in their local warehouse, have another of the earlier commercial travellers as their local manager, in the person of Thos. E. Hassard.

Meat Companies who maintain permanent resident representative here are Burns & Co., Ltd., represented by A. E. B. Murphy; Swift Canadian Company, represented by Clarence Shields, and Gainers, Limited, represented by L. S. Edwards, one of the best known commercial men in the district.

With nearly 5,000 automobile registrations in the Peace River country and the general use of power machinery on farms, it is but natural that the oil companies should be well represented. Five of these companies maintain wholesale distributing plants in Grande Prairie, some of them also maintaining branch distribution supplies at various points throughout the district.

The first of the oil companies to provide local distribution service to the Peace River country was the Imperial Oil Limited. From their first small beginnings in the north country this firm now has a long list of distributing storage depots throughout the country both north and south of the river, with Mr. R. B. Harris as district superintendent.

The British American was the second of the oil companies to undertake extensive trade con-

nections in the north country. Their line of supply houses now extends both north and south of the Peace and far into the Peace River Block of British Columbia. J. A. Stewart of Grande Prairie, is the district supervisor.

Union Oil was not by any means the earliest, but has been one of the most aggressive in the establishment of their business in the Grande Prairie district. Under the capable direction of Harold Oxley this company has forged ahead very rapidly, already surpassing all earlier expectations as to the volume of business attainable.

Regal Oils is another company which has aggressively extended its business, and Bert Bromley, the district supervisor now has a string of stations extending throughout the country.

O. B. Harris is distributor for North Star and Wm. Penn Oils, and though this company came in only recently, they are making very satisfactory headway, and are gradually getting branches established throughout the district.

LUMBER BUSINESS

One of the first requirements of any new country is building material. In the supply of this, the Frontier Lumber has always maintained a remarkable position. Coming early into the Grande Prairie and Peace River country, the Frontier has given a remarkably complete service. Under the able management of A. R. McMillan, this company has extended its services until it now operates eighteen yards throughout the Peace River country. Its service includes the supply of practically all kinds of building material, with everything that can be asked in coast, native and hardwood lumbers.

Mrs. Mary Thompson Created Place of Beauty on Bear Lake

In early March of 1910, over the difficult Athabasca-Slave Lake-Sturgeon Lake Trail, beset with hardships which made men quail at times, there came to the Grande Prairie district a fine old English mother and her seven children.

Mrs. Thompson was born in Jersey on the Channel Island on May 27th, 1853. At an early age she married William Thompson and they established their home at Timperly, Cheshire, England. In June of 1907, Mr. Thompson passed on leaving a family of seven.

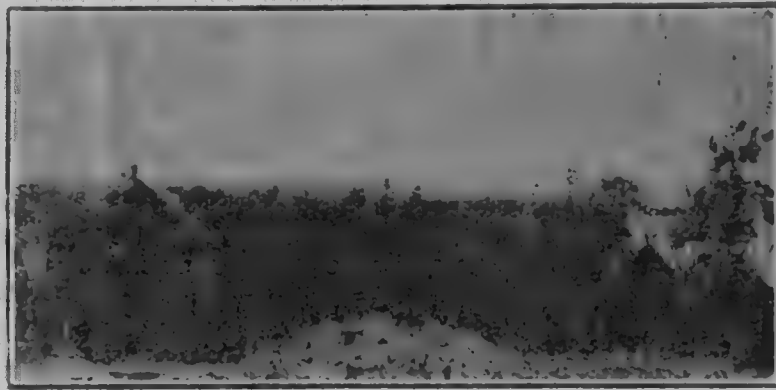
In the summer of 1908 the family came to Canada, locating in Edmonton. The Call of the Peace became too strong to resist so in February, 1910, they set out for their new northern home.

To say that Mrs. Thompson and her children established a home in the new northland falls to express the feelings of those who have enjoyed the privilege

of visiting that beautiful home on the eastern shores of Bear Lake. During the lifetime of Mrs. Thompson it was the outstanding beauty spot of the whole north country. Sending home to her native land for fruit and shade trees, for shrubs and flowers, with which the homesite was quickly converted into a veritable showplace. The old home still stands, facing the setting sun across Bear Lake, but in recent years the beautiful garden has become a ghost of the thing of beauty it was in the time of its creator.

Mrs. Thompson was summoned to her Heavenly home on June 1st, 1928.

Of the family three still reside here, Mrs. A. E. W. Roberts, Mrs. William Grant and Fred H. Thompson. Miss May Thompson and Mrs. C. J. Mead reside in England, John Thompson in California. Richard Thompson was accidentally drowned in Lake Saskatoon about fourteen years ago.



Mrs. Thompson's Home on Bear Lake.

Pioneering Since 1880

Back in 1880, before the days of Riel, when Western prairies were yet unbroken

MACDONALDS WHOLESALE

was serving those early pioneers of the West. During the past 54 years, this pioneer wholesale house has been the leader in economical distribution of goods, because they

BOUGHT FOR CASH and SOLD FOR CASH

Today the 33 branches of Macdonalds Consolidated Limited are to be found throughout Western Canada, giving, rapid, efficient and economical service to the Grocery Trade.

Our Service to the Peace River Country

is extended to you through our branch warehouses at

Dawson Creek

Grande Prairie

Peace River

MACDONALDS CONSOLIDATED LTD.

33 Branches in Western Canada.

Board of Trade Has Been Valuable Organization

In the development of the vast south Peace River country, both agriculturally and commercially, a large measure of credit is due to the organization of men from both town and country who have carried on the multitudinous activities of the Grande Prairie Board of Trade. From the earliest days of settlement the board of trade or the publicity committee which preceded the official organization of that body, has been ever to the forefront in promoting the welfare of the district in the matter of railway development and transportation, agricultural development and better marketing facilities, freight rates and the ultimate objective of the district in procuring a transportation outlet to the Pacific coast.

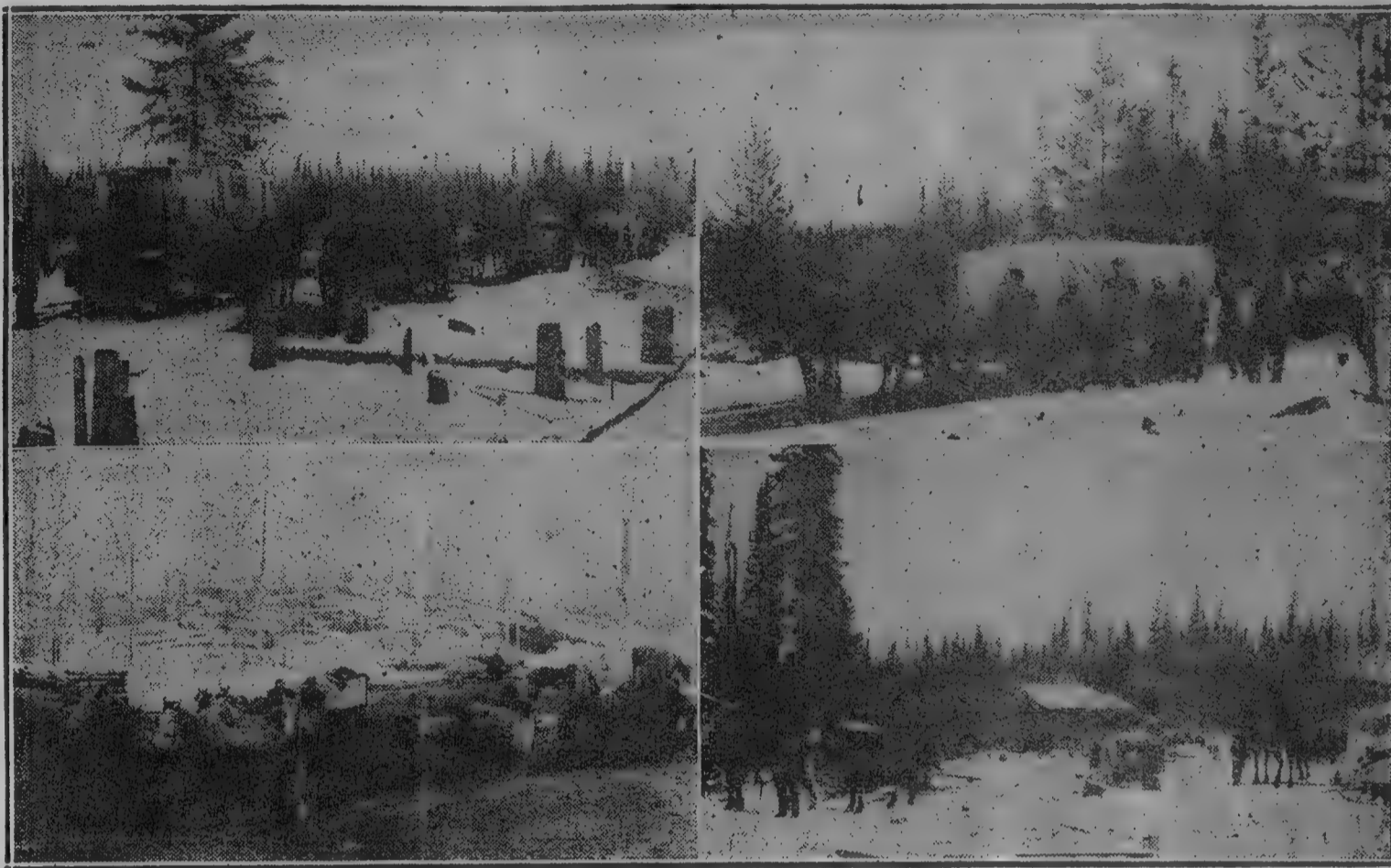
Destruction of some of the earlier records leave the details of the earliest activities somewhat obscured.

During the first three or four years all efforts toward progress were more or less individualistic, but about the year 1914 community effort began to take shape, and P. M. Bezanson appears to have been the first secretary to look after correspondence for this community committee which was later to develop as the board of trade.

In 1915 the first big effort was made, when P. J. Tooley, as secretary, was instrumental in assisting to send Harry Adair, the biggest farmer of the district, to Ottawa as a delegate from the Grande Prairie district to urge upon the government and the Canadian Northern Railway the urgency of building the railway through from Whitecourt to Grande Prairie, and the opening of the road through the same route. Although this trip did not achieve the desired result, the district was put in closer touch with government departments, and this association proved of value later when further delegations were sent on similar errands.

Again in 1919 Captain C. E. Howell, Hugh Allen and Chris. A. McDonald were sent as a delegation to press for the building of the coast outlet, and in 1923 began a series of bombardments of the government at Ottawa in which the town of Grande Prairie, the municipal districts of Grande Prairie and Bear Lake, and many private citizens, contributed funds amounting to several thousand dollars to maintain delegations at Ottawa during the sessions of 1923, 1924 and 1925.

The virile public spirit of the north country is evident from the list of donations made to this huge fund for the first delegation in 1923. The list of private donations totalling \$4,387.75 shows these to have been contributed from Clairmont, Sexsmith, Grande Prairie, residents of the two municipal districts, \$100 each from F. Turner, Lee Alward and J. Harris, and a private loan of \$1,000 from Mr. Alward. The municipalities contributed with \$800 from Grande Prairie municipality, \$500 from Bear Lake and \$300 from the town of Grande Prairie.



Scenes as the Pioneers of 1906 to 1914 trekked in over the Edson Trail enroute to the Peace River Country. Many settlers brought extensive equipment. They were obliged to travel in winter since the Trail was bottomless when thawed out

There was also an anonymous contribution of \$500, making total contributions of \$4,829.25. J. E. Thomson and Wm. Innes, who were sent as delegates, advanced sums of \$455 and \$800 respectively for the carrying on of the work while awaiting the securing of the funds required.

Messrs. J. E. Thomson and Wm. Innes acted as delegates during the sessions of 1923 and 1924, and were joined in Ottawa by Anson Wagar, whose resourcefulness in securing audiences and other advantages was notable. Four months of effort on the part of the delegates in 1923 resulted in a survey being authorized, but further efforts toward construction were unavailing, as they have been to date. Mr. Thomson was accompanied by L. C. Porteous on the 1925 trip to Ottawa.

The file of correspondence which passed back and forth at that time is the record of an intensely earnest pioneering people fighting for the facilities which had been promised them for years, and without which the north country could never hope to attain its complete development commercially or agriculturally. It is a fight which has not yet been finished but which must be carried on until such time as we have gained our one great objective—an outlet to the Pacific coast.

During these same years the board of trade undertook and accomplished its greatest effort in advancing the interests of the grain growers of the north country, in securing the removal of the mountain freight tariffs which had been in effect on the E. D. & B. C. railway. This fight was first taken before the board of railway commissioners at Edmonton in 1921, and provided unavailing. Later, under the leadership of J. H. Sissons, who had been retained as counsellor by the board, a sittings of the railway commission was secured at Grande Prairie in October, 1923, when the case was splendidly presented, with a mass of evidence presented by local farmers and shippers. Arguments between witnesses and members of the board of commissioners waxed hot at times, and Joshua Fletcher at one point took the case in his own hands when he advised the chief commissioner that he had come to give his evidence and proposed to give it in his own way—which he did in a most emphatic manner. While the late Hon. F. B. Carvell, who was then chairman of the board, was unfavorable to the request, Hon. Frank Oliver delivered a masterful minority report, and shortly afterward the north country secured the long fought for reduction in rates, to be followed a few months later by a further and unexpected reduction in the application of the Crows Nest rate structure to all Western lines.

Valuable as this concession to the north has been, it was but one of a long program of active work year after year in promoting the welfare of the north country from every possible angle. When the sale of the E. D. & B. C. railway by the province was being discussed, the board of directors of the C.P.R. visited the Grande Prairie district, and after a long discussion with the council of the board of trade held the only C.P.R. directors' meeting ever held outside of Montreal. This meeting was held on board the C.P.R. official train at Sexsmith, with the local board of trade represented, and it was following this meeting that the final purchase of the road was authorized by the directors.

The first co-operative shipment from the north country was sponsored by the board of trade. This was in 1922, when the Alberta market for turkeys and poultry was wholly unsatisfactory. Under direction of officers of the board of trade, Messrs. P. J. Tooley, the secretary, and Geo. Fowler personally guaranteed a loan at the bank to cover freight charges on two and one-half carloads of turkeys which were shipped to the Vancouver market. The effort was highly successful, the shipments

bringing an excellent price and netting local farmers a handsome profit.

The board of trade has taken an active part in promoting one of the most important branches of northern agriculture, that of pure seed growing. While credit is due the Peace River Seed Growers association, composed of local farmers, for establishing the south Peace River country as the greatest pure seed supply in Western Canada, it is also a fact that this organization was assisted and fostered by the board of trade, which has also taken an active part this season in securing the attention of the board of grain commissioners for Canada in holding a special sittings in Grande Prairie to investigate unsatisfactory conditions in grain marketing.

The fight for subvention of freight rates on grain pending construction of a coast outlet has been carried on consistently.

One major recognition of the grain growers was obtained some years ago when favorable consideration was given the request of Grande Prairie Board of Trade for a reduction in storage charges on grain at country elevators from one and one-half to one cent per bushel. Although this concession was later lost, it was of very substantial benefit to farmers during the years it was effective.

Another concession was secured with the co-operation of Grande Prairie Board in 1930, when the wheat bonus of five cents per bushel, at first applicable only in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, was extended to include the Peace River Block in British Columbia. In this matter the Grande Prairie board was the first to take up the matter of an ad-

justment, and co-operated whole-heartedly with the boards of Pouce Coupe, Rolla and Dawson Creek in securing this recognition of the Block.

Another movement in which Grande Prairie has given full co-operation is the formation and work of the Associated Boards of Trade of the Peace River country. This organization, formed in 1932 under the leadership of W. D. Albright, then president of the Beaver Lodge Board of Trade, ably assisted by Geo. K. Slaney, also of Beaver Lodge, has endeavored with a large measure of success to co-ordinate the work of all Boards of Trade throughout the Peace River country by uniting the efforts of the entire northern part of Alberta and British Columbia on matters of major importance. The annual meetings of the Associated Boards have been held at Beaver Lodge, High Prairie and Pouce Coupe, and have brought about a spirit of co-operative effort and the discouragement of sectional strife to a marked degree. Mr. L. C. Howard of Sexsmith, is the capable president of this organization for the current year, and has as his able assistant and secretary Mr. W. R. Roberts, also of Sexsmith.

Carefully avoiding petty or contentious matters and giving their full attention to the major problems of development, the board of trade has on its program today several major items upon which they are devoting their unceasing attention until satisfaction has been secured. The construction of an outlet to the Pacific is perhaps the largest of these items but of almost equal importance in commercial development is the necessity of securing outward

(continued on page ten)



A Sample of the Farms Developed Later



All is not Wheat Farming. Livestock pays Big Returns



18 Years Service

. . . From . . .

Eighteen Supply Yards

Since the first FRONTIER LUMBER YARD was established at Spirit River in 1916, this company has been to the forefront in its service to the homebuilders and pioneers who have been developing the Peace River Country. This service has been an important factor in the building up of the district.

Frontier Lumber Yards have been the marketing point for a very large proportion of the native lumber of the north country, and the local consumer's dollar has found its way to the workmen in local lumber mills.

In addition this company has at all times provided adequate stocks of Coast Fir and Cedar and Eastern Hardwood Finishing Lumber, Brick, Cement, Plaster Board, Tile, Shingles, Building Papers and practically everything except hardware for the construction of every type of building.

Whether it is only a simple granary, or a complete set of modern farm buildings that you are planning, you can get better service and save money by relying on this company's service for everything in building materials. Our extensive assortment of plans and specifications for every kind of building is at your service for the economical planning of your requirements.

FRONTIER LUMBER COMPANY
LIMITED

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALBERTA

Yards and Supply Depots at High Prairie, Falher, Peace River, Grimshaw, Berwyn, Fairview, Wainham, Spirit River, Sexsmith, Clairmont, Grande Prairie, Wembley, Beaver Lodge, Hythe, Pouce Coupe, Dawson Creek and Rolla



WHEN THE PIONEERS CAME

There are pioneers, and there are old-timers. And then there are some real old-timers, meaning that a few venturesome spirits had already come and established themselves in the Peace River country even before its agricultural possibilities became known and began to attract settlement in large numbers. If you think you are an old-timer, or just a pioneer look at these dates:

SOME WHO CAME BEFORE 1900

Kerr, Thos	1878
Brinkman, Richard	1884
Adam, Francis	1885
Bedson, Fred J. H.	1887
Campbell, Louis	1888
Bashaw family, Baptiste	1898
Brooks, Jim	1898
Callihoo family, Adam	1898
Callihoo family, Louis	1898
Callihoo, Isaac and wife	1898
Callihoo family, William	1898
Cornwall Col. Jas. K.	1898
Emo, August	1898
Emo, Jerry	1898
English, Wm. S. O.	1898
Gladhu family, Johnny	1898
Monkman family, Alex.	1898
Bredin, W. F. and wife	1899
Ferguson family, Leon	1899
Ferguson family, St. Pierre	1899

SOME WHO CAME BETWEEN 1900 AND 1905

Calkin, H. E.	1900
Gunn, Arthur E.	1900
Macdonald family, Alex.	1900
Boyd, Ben W.	1901
Boyd, Mrs. Hugh	1901
Dodge, Freeman James	1901
Gladhu family, Alfred	1901
Kerr, Mrs. Thomas	1901
Callihoo, Henry and wife	1902
Macreet, James	1902
ulp, Norman	1903
Esplen, David	1903
Esplen, John and wife	1903
Grant, John	1903
Moore, George	1903
Knutt, Frank	1903
Grant, John	1903
Brooks, Andy Clyde	1904
Brooks family, Diest	1904
Monkman, Phillip H.	1904
Nicholson, Charles	1904
Germain, Jos. E.	1905

SOME WHO CAME BETWEEN 1905 AND 1910

Adair, L. H. and wife	1910
Anderson, Norman	1910
Baker, R. H. and wife	1908
Beatty, Ross	1910
Benson, E. C. and wife	1906
Bezanson, A. M.	1906
Bezanson, Mrs. A. M.	1907
Bezanson, Francis M.	1908
Bernard, W. N.	1907

Brims, James	1910
Bruce, William	1910
Campbell, Carman	1910
Campbell, Harry N.	1910
Campbell, Mrs. Louise M.	1910
Campbell, Malcolm	1910
Carney, Ed.	1910
Chapman, Arthur	1910
Chapman, B. N. and wife	1910
Chapman, Witer N.	1910
Clay, Sergt. S.G. R.N.W.M.P.	1903
Conrad, Mrs. Maude W.	1906
Clifford, Harry Ronald	1910
Clough, Robert	1906
Cochrane, Robert and wife	1910
Craig, Alexander	1910
Cranston, Donald C.	1909
Crerar, Jas. G.	1910
Dolphin, Fred C.	1910
Durkin, Mrs. Wm.	1910
Douglas, Mrs. Mamie Moore	1910
Eagar, Mack W.	1910
Edgerton, Mrs. Chas. E.	1910
Flint, George V.	1909
Flint, Paul and wife	1910
Flint, Victor C.	1909
Forbes, Rev. Alex and wife	1910
Foster, Oscar H. and wife	1910
Gallinger, Allen	1910
Gardner, Mrs. Hilda	1907
Gaudin, Mrs. I. E.	1909
Gaudin, D'Arcy	1909
Goodwin, Mrs. B. R.	1909
Goodwin, Mrs. Joseph	1909
Grant, William	1906
Gunn, J. A.	1910
Harris, John H. and wife	1910
Harvey, Ernest	1910
Hawkinson, Mrs. Ernie	1907
Jodgins Lee and wife	191
Jolden, William	1901
Holtom, E. J. and wife	1910
Hopkins, A. B.	1910
Hopkins, C. F.	1910
Hotten, Reg.	1910
Jacque, Homer	1910
Johnson, Arnold and wife	1909
Johnson, Hedley	1910
Johnson, John O.	1909
Johnson, Miss Pauline C.	1909
Johnson, Percy Cecil	1909
Johnson, Mrs. Oliver H.	1909
Johnson, W. G.	1908
Johnston, C. B.	1910
Johnston, C. W.	1910
Johnston, Ralph C.	1910
Jordan, Bill	1910
Jordan, Tom	1910
Katz, William	1910
Keith, J. B. and wife	1910
Kinderwater, William	1910
Knechtel, Mrs. Richard	1910
Knudson, Ernest A	1900
Lenz, Henry	1910
Lossing, C. F.	1909
Lossing, Robert C. and wife	1909
Lucy, Leland and wife	1910
Lucy, Sid	1910
Lukey, Frank	1910
McAusland, Selby and wife	1910
McDiarmid, D.	1910
McFarlane, James	1910
McFarlane, Walter G. & wife	1909
McLean, Donald	1909
McMillar, Daniel	1910
McNaught, S. C. and wife	1909
McNaughton, Mrs. Eleanor	1909
McPherson, Donald	1910
McQuarrie, A. H.	1910
McRae, R. P. and wife	1909
Macklin, Irvin V.	1910
Marfleet, Alfred	1910
Mead, Lieut.	1906
Miller, J. M. and wife	1909
Morehouse, Mrs. D. C.	1909
Murphy, J. C.	1908
Nelson, Isaac	1910
Oatway, John	1910
Peebles, A. H. and wife	1910
Penney, Mrs. C. F.	1910
Pool, C. O. and wife	1909
Rae, Wm. A. and wife	1909
Rae, Francis G.	1909
Roberts, A. E. W. and wife	1910
Roberts, Charles	1908
Roberts, Fred H. and wife	1907
Roberts, Henry and wife	1907
Roberts, Walter	1907
Roberts, Wm. E.	1907
Salmond, Wm. Jr.	1910
Sheeham, Thos. B. and wife	1910
Sherk, Amos and wife	1909
Sherk, Gordon, G.	1909
Sherk, Manley Edson	1909
Short, William	1908
Smith, Albert R. and wife	1909
Smith, Elias A. and wife	1909
Smith, Clyde	1908
Smith, Harry	1908
Smith, Mrs. Lance	1910
Smith, W. M.	1910
Steinbrecher, Louis	1910
Steele, Robert J. and wife	1909
Stoll, Charles F.	1910
Stoll, George M.	1910
Sully, Cecil and wife	1910
Sunderman, G. J.	1910
Sutherland, Angus Hugh	1910
Sutherland, John and wife	1910
Taft, J. B.	1910

Board of Trade Has Been and Is Valuable Organization

(continued from page nine)

class freight rates to establish wholesale activities on a firm basis than is possible under present rates, and also bring down living costs to a par with the larger centers of the West. While complete records are not available from which to secure a list of those who have served in the various offices of the board since its inception, there are certain names that stand out prominently in all the public work of this valuable organization over a long period of years. When the board was incorporated under the Dominion Boards of Trade Act in 1919, we find the following as the first list of officers under that incorporation:

Talbot, Norman and wife	1910
Tesar, Jas	1910
Tesar, Joseph	1910
Trelle, Andreas and wife	1909
Tremblay, Hector	1908
Traux, A. G. and wife	1909
Twombly, C. F. and wife	1909
Twombly, C. A.	1909
Twombly C. R.	1909
Walker, Harry H. and wife	1910
Walker, Russell J. I.	1910
Walton, Arthur I.	1910
Walton, John and wife	1910
Watson, Thos. J.	1910
Wheeler, Jas.	1910

(Continued in Section Two)

tion:

J. E. Thomson, president.
Geo. Crummy, vice-president
J. H. E. FitzAllen, secretary
C. L. Grisdale, Finance committee.
W. F. Stevens, agricultural
G. A. James, reception.
J. M. Crummy, transportation
R. L. Michaelis, roads.
Dr. L. J. O'Brien, hospitals
P. M. Bezanson, social entertainment.
C. A. McDonald, railways.
Among others who have been active and have served in the various offices of the board are to be found prominently the names of L. C. Porteous, Wm. C. Pratt, D. W. Pratt, P. J. Tooley, D. W. Patterson, P. V. Croken, J. H. Slissons, T. W. Lawlor, C. H. Bennett, J. H. Hunter, I. Nelson, C. Stredulinsky, C. Spencer, J. B. Oliver, J. W. Pickard, C. R. Bell, C. G. Butchart, A. R. McMillan, M. W. Eagar.
Officers of the Grande Prairie Board of Trade for 1934 are
President, D. W. Patterson.
Vice President, C. C. Fleming.
Secretary, P. J. Tooley
Treasurer, C. R. McKay.
Executive, L. C. Porteous, J. E. Thomson, Joe Crummy, W. C. Pratt, P. V. Croken, J. H. Slissons, J. W. Pickard, C. Graban, A. H. McQuarrie.



The First Farm Equipment

to be brought into the Grande Prairie District by the Pioneers was the Reliable, Canadian-made MASSEY-HARRIS. And because Massey-Harris is still the favorite equipment of our farmers and seed growers, this company has established its branch warehouse in Grande Prairie, with a complete stock of Farm Machinery and Repairs.

The Same Reliability

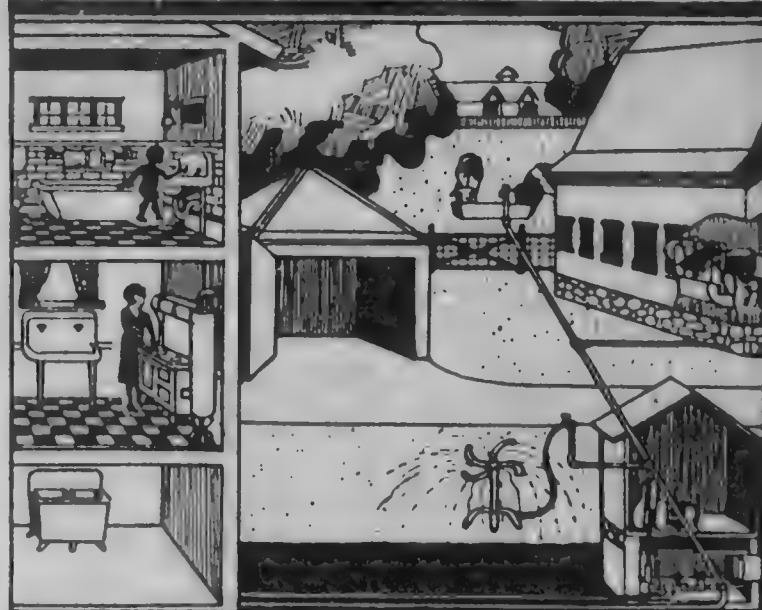
that has made Massey-Harris famous for the last sixty years is at your service today in every item of our complete range of machinery, from walking plows to Massey-Harris Tractors and Combines.

Wm. SHARPE

THE MASSEY-HARRIS WAREHOUSE
GRANDE PRAIRIE ALBERTA

Those Early Settlers

We are grateful for the friendship and fellowship that has been extended to us in our relations with the people of this community. Most of us will agree that it is the women who pay the price of the frontier and it is only by their loyalty that most men have carried on—and to these women pioneers we wish to pay our tribute of respect and admiration.



Speaking of Pioneers

Beatty Bros. Ltd., are this year celebrating their Diamond Jubilee—Sixty years in business in Canada. Sixty years of service to the pioneers in all sections of this great Dominion. Sixty years of progress and friendship with patrons.

The Beatty services illustrated in this advertisement are all obtainable at our Grande Prairie warehouse. Not illustrated in this advertisement is the Famous Beatty Power Washer coveted by women folk everywhere.

Old-Timers and New-Timers

At no obligation to yourselves we respectfully suggest that you write us today for a Beatty Bros. catalogue.

Beatty Bros., Ltd.

J. C. JAEGER, Manager
Grande Prairie, Alberta

Glorious Beauty

and Engineering Genius Combined in . . .

MARCONI ALL-WAVE RADIOS

A new and infinitely greater radio era dawns this season, heralded by another spectacular Marconi achievement: the combining of Marconi Engineering Genius with the ultimate in Cabinet beauty in the five epochal models here presented.

MARCONI THE FOUNDATION OF RADIO

No one but Marconi could have built these receivers, for no other organization has the background, experience or technical resources that have made the name Marconi great.

From the day when the genius of Marconi sent the first radio message flickering into space, this great name has stood alone. Marconi has pioneered and developed every forward radio step through three decades and today stands, beyond question, as the World's greatest radio organization producing a range of radio receivers and equipment, transmitters, direction finders, ship-to-shore telephone equipment, beam wireless equipment and other technical marvels, that no other organization even approaches.

*Travel Around the World in a
Single Night with MARCONI*

In appearance and in performance they far outstrip any receiver you have ever seen. Yet their price-range is all-inclusive. There is a Marconi receiver for every purse and need, each offering a newer, fuller and richer conception of radio entertainment.

MARCONI RADIOS

For Sale by These Dealers:--

Gaudin's Cash Store
BEAVERLODGE

J. R. Finlan
HYTHE

The Original Radio Service of the
Hythe District

**TAYLOR &
PEARSON LTD.**
—Distributors—
Edmonton

Oscar Johnson
FAIRVIEW
The Most Up-to-the Minute Radio
Service North of the Peace

**TAYLOR &
PEARSON LTD.**
—Distributors—
Edmonton

MARCONI IN 1900

"The Only Name in Radio"

MARCONI IN 1934

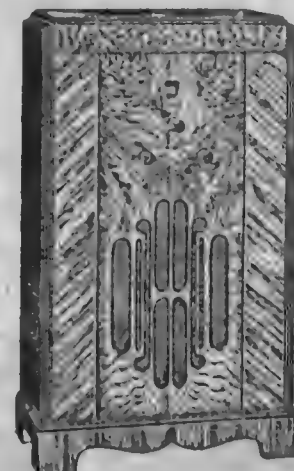
"The Greatest Name in Radio"



MARCONI MODEL 57
NEW BATTERY SET—LONG AND
SHORT WAVE
Uses only two B-Batteries, no C-
Battery, operates on air cell or 2-
Volt storage battery. Operating
costs cut to a minimum. 1550 535
kc. and 16,000 to 5,700 kc. for stand-
ard and foreign reception. Volume
and tone controls. Complete with
3 Marconi RVC Radiotrons, but
less batteries. **\$109.50**
for



MARCONI MODEL 53
8-tube Receiver; All Wavebands
Standard long-wave broadcast
band. Foreign broadcast short-
wave bands. Police, amateur, aero-
plane reception. Tuning Meter and
Overload Indicator. Dual vernier
for hairbreadth settings. New
short-wave circuit refinements **\$166.50**



**BATTERY SET — STANDARD
WAVE MODEL 45**
Has exceptionally low "A" and "B"
battery drain; only 2 "B" batteries
and no "C" battery are required.
In sensitivity, selectivity and tone
it is in every way the equal of an
AC receiver.
6 New Marconi R.V.C. Radiotrons
in a new Marconi superheterodyne
circuit. 8-inch Magnetic Speaker of
latest design giving highest quality
reproduction. Automatic volume
control to eliminate blasting and
fading. Tone control that covers
to perfection the complete tonal
range. A remarkable receiver.
Price **\$84.50**
(Less Batteries)

Rev. John Gough Brick Was First To Advertise Fertility of Peace

(By A. L. "Fred" Brick)

The Reverend John Gough Brick was born at Upton-on-Severn in England, and came to Canada about 1869.

He left Toronto in 1881 and proceeded to Dunvegan on the Peace River in the service of the English Church Missionary Society. He had to travel by C.P.R. from Toronto to Winnipeg and then by Hudson's Bay Company boats across Lake Winnipeg up the Saskatchewan River to Prince Albert, overland to the Clearwater River, across Lake Athabasca and up the Peace River to Dunvegan. This was a difficult and tedious journey in those early days.

On arrival at Dunvegan he established an Anglican Mission at that point and proceeded to erect buildings on the place now well known as the old Mission site, and identified by the growth of the Maple trees that are still there, just about a quarter of mile up stream from the Hudson's Bay Company old Trading store.

In 1883 he was joined by his two sons, Allan and Birtle who came west to assist in the agricultural work at the Mission and establish themselves at a point then known as Old Wives Lake, just about four miles west of the present town of Berwyn.

In 1886 having realized the possibilities of the future of the country and developing an ambition to establish an Anglican Mission farm and school to demonstrate the country's agricultural possibilities and to educate the natives along that line, he obtained permission from Bishop Young, at that time Bishop of the Athabasca Diocese to proceed to Eastern Canada on a lecture tour, to raise funds, with this object in view. He spent two years in Eastern Canada and England at this work, and was successful in raising sufficient support that he was enabled in 1888 to return to the Peace River district with a fairly complete farming and milling equipment.

And that year was established the Shaftbury Mission farm, at a point about twelve miles up stream from the present town of Peace River, and now a well known land mark in that district.

On his return to the north country at this time he was accompanied by his wife and son Fred. The difficulties encountered on the trip into the north country with this large outfit of machinery were many. The equipment was shipped by C.P.R. from Toronto to Calgary which was the last rail point at

the time. At Calgary it was loaded into twenty-three ox-carts, two wagons and a democrat and the overland trip to Edmonton started. It took twenty days to reach Edmonton and six days more to get to Athabasca Landing. There the machinery was loaded into York boats operated by man power and owned by the Hudson's Bay Company and the trip to Lesser Slave Lake was undertaken. Included in the equipment taken in to establish the Mission farm were three well-bred mares, two Holstein heifers, and a purebred Durham bull, numerous poultry and pigs. The poultry and pigs were shipped in the York boat but the horses and stock were driven overland through the bush from Athabasca Landing to Lesser Slave Lake, now known as Grouard, by the son Fred. Many difficulties were encountered and overcome and the outfit was landed at Slave Lake. From there it was transported by ox and horse teams to the Shaftbury Mission site. And as said before the Mission was established and farming operations carried on.

In 1892 some very excellent wheat was raised on this Mission farm by Rev. Mr. Brick and a bushel sample was sent to be exhibited in the Chicago World's fair held in 1893. This wheat took the first "World's prize," and the Rev. J. G. Brick is due credit for the demonstration to the world the grain growing possibilities of the Peace River country. The wheat that won this prize was not hand-picked, it was a well-cleaned sample from the crop grown on the farm and it weighed 72 lbs. to the bushel.

In 1895 due to failing health the Rev. Mr. Brick had to leave the Peace River country and return to Eastern Canada. Shortly after his return there he received a call to the Aspinall Memorial church at Barrytown on the Hudson River in New York State and remained there till the time of his death in 1896.

A. L. Alderman Found Romance and Optimism Country's Chief Assets

The busy little community of Humbird, in Clark County, Wisconsin, contributed to the Peace River country one of its outstanding and successful farmers in the personage of Albert Lea "Al" Alderman.

Following his public schooling, Al went to high school for a business course and later took an extension course from the university. Later he served as telegraph operator and emigration agent until in June of 1914, he became conscious of the opportunity awaiting in the far-off Peace.

Coming in over the Edson Trail he arrived at Grande Prairie on October 5th, 1914, and immediately selected a home-stand east of Clairmont Lake.

His early experiences are tritely summed up in the following words: "On our arrival here coal oil was \$3. per gallon flour \$15. per hundred weight, dried apples 2 pounds for \$1. There were no graded roads. No railroad. Only one school east of Grande Prairie. No telephones and of course no radios—but a boundless spirit of optimism. Mail came twice weekly by stage from Edson and once each year a pilgrimage was made to the outside for supplies, usually by sleigh. On one of these trips over 100 teams spent the night at Scotty's stopping place while I was there. What our country has lacked in luxury, we have made up in romance."

In Calgary, on December 26th, 1912, Miss Nellie C. Arnold became Mrs. Alderman. The inherent open handed hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Alderman has been extended to hundreds of newcomers to the north during the past twenty years.



Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roberts

Green in the memory of thousands of residents of the Grande Prairie country remains the most hospitable welcome tendered on their arrival in the Peace River by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roberts at their comfortable home on the southern shores of Bear Lake.

For more than a quarter of a century this gentleman and his good lady have extended to newcomers the hand of friendship and welcome and in many other ways have assisted them in getting suitably located and settled.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts, with their family of four boys and four girls arrived on La Grande Prairie on March 2nd, 1909. They experienced all the rigours of the long Athabasca-Grouard-Sturgeon Lake trail but at its end found all they had hoped for—a home in the golden land of opportunity. While disappointments came at times, never have their ardour and love of the north waned. Material success has been enjoyed, despite temporary setbacks.

Henry Roberts was born at Richmond Hill, Ontario, on January 9th, 1852 to William and Elizabeth Clark Roberts who had left their Yorkshire, England home years before to seek adventure in Canada. His parents are now deceased.

Of their family of four boys and five girls, but four survive; Mrs. J. H. Moore, Lake Saskatchewan, Mrs. J. Ashby, Weyburn, Sask., Mrs. Ed. Sample, Vancouver, B.C., and Mr. Henry Roberts at Bear Lake.

Following some farming experience in the Toronto, Ontario district, Henry Roberts removed to Watertown, South Dakota where he farmed for ten years. The next move was to Carlyle, the north.

Sask., where for a like period he devoted his efforts to grain production. In 1907 he removed to Edmonton, remaining there until January, 1909, when the final move was made—to La Grande Prairie, of the Peace River country.

Hale, hearty and exceedingly active, despite his eighty-two years, Mr. Roberts is looked upon as one of the most successful farmers of the Grande Prairie district. His farm holdings are most ideally located on the south side of Bear Lake, the rolling land producing excellent crops.

On December 9th, 1879, Mr. Roberts led Miss Mary Jones of Parry Sound, Ontario, to the altar. In just a few weeks this happily mated couple will celebrate their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary, surrounded by their large family of children and grandchildren.

There has been but one break in their family, being the death of a son George which occurred in 1915. Three sons, William, Fred and Walter, and four daughters, Mrs. Wm. Reid, Regina, Sask., Mrs. Lance Smith, Edmonton, Mrs. L. C. Porteous and Mrs. Bert Bessent, Grande Prairie can all be classed as true old-timers.

Mrs. Roberts' parents, James and Susanna Thomas Jones are deceased as also are one sister and one brother. Surviving are William Jones in Tisdale, Sask., Mrs. Thos. Shaw, Orillia, Ont., Mrs. Wm. Nolan, Mrs. Geo. McDonald and Mrs. David Brown of Meaford, Ont.

It has not been given to many to enjoy life in all its phases as has been the experience of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roberts. That they long be spared is the wish of their hundreds of friends in the north.



Beautiful Farm Home of Mr. and Mrs. Roberts



Mr. Roberts Loves Horses. Here are Some of Them at His Farm



Alberta 5c to \$1.00 Store

At this glad Yuletide Season we wish to thank our many friends—both Old-timers and Newcomers—whose valued patronage has made it possible for us to maintain a "Real Variety Store" in this North Country.

To one and all we extend our sincerest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. You are cordially invited to make this store your headquarters when in town. We are here to serve you

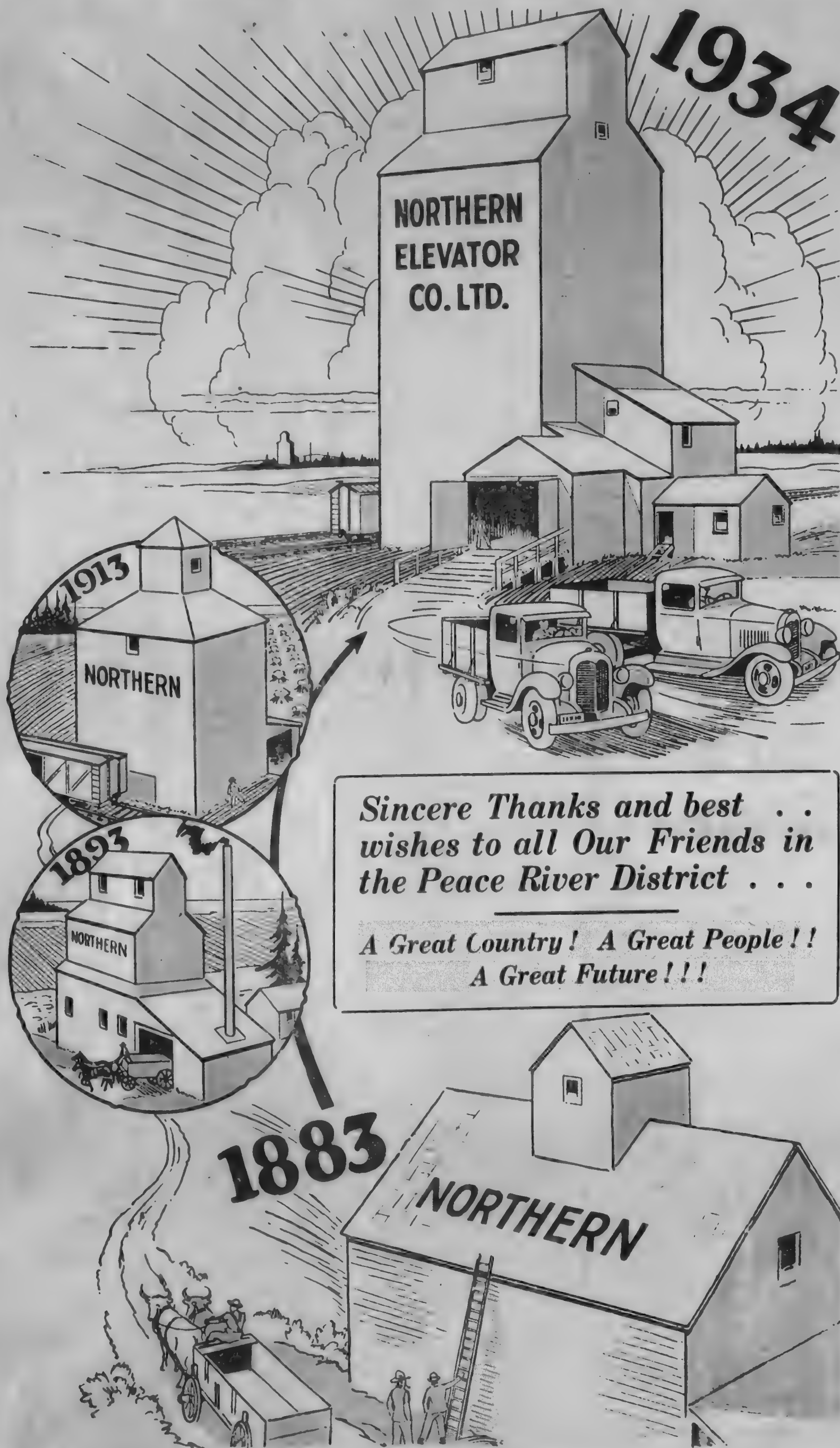
**H. A. Newton
J. M. Smart**

"Two Oldtimers"

PHONE 110

GRANDE PRAIRIE

PIONEERS IN THE GRAIN BUSINESS



GARDENS FLOURISH IN PEACE DISTRICT

By Miriam Green Ellis

(Reprinted from THE FAMILY HERALD of August 29, 1934.)

Many questions come to W. D. Albright at the Beaver Lodge Experimental Substation, but a recent one that made him stop and listen was "How to plant Christmas trees to make them grow?"

"What are your questions chiefly," I asked him, realizing this would indicate the problems of that great territory.

Apparently they could be anything from how to make hens lay eggs in winter time to methods for eradicating sow thistle, but a very great many of his letters right now have to do with gardens; the kind of plants that will grow and ripen; what to do about the pests that attack cabbages, potatoes and carrots, and almost everything that grows in a garden, as well as how to cultivate the soil to the best advantage, and how to store the vegetables for the winter.

"They are intensely interested in everything that has to do with gardens," said Mr. Albright.

This seems to be a reversal from the attitude of mind which the first settlers had. Fifteen years or so ago I could not find a single garden around the then thriving village of Spirit River. But since the price of wheat has shrunk and times were hard even the men of the family had to admit that it was necessary first to grow enough to eat, and then some to sell. In this rearrangement, a garden became one of the most important places on the farm.

Although the Experimental Station at Beaver Lodge is still on temporary land it has been developed by way of shrubs, trees, rose gardens, as well as experimental plots into a most attractive farm. Even apple and fruit trees are being made to grow. A mountain ash was in full bloom at the end of June. There are two hundred species of woody ornamental trees and shrubs. Some effort at selection is being made with Saskatoons which are a great success as a fruiting hedge. While gooseberries grow wild as far north as Aklavik in the Mackenzie Delta they do not do so well here, although Herman Trelle has a bush in his garden which has done well for these last 10 or 15 years. All around the meadows there were quantities of wild strawberries the end of June, but Mr. Albright reports the tame strawberries not a very great success in the gardens. He thinks there may be a disease factor which is affecting their full development. Even so there were ripe berries on the vines the last week in June. In many of the farm gardens all around this country surplus stock has been distributed from the Beaver Lodge Station, on the understanding that they in turn will supply their neighbors.

Since 1922 corn has never failed on tired at the Experimental Station. They always had some corn to use on the table and usually for several weeks; some years the frost caught it early. They have Banting sweet corn, Pickaninny and several other table varieties. The garden usually gives them ripe tomatoes, beans and such like tender plants, and with continued cultivation in the country it is found to be much less liable to early frosts than in the pioneer days.

A greenhouse has been added to the equipment and a new cattle and horse barn is going up this year. In the latter one end is given over to a root house and a water tank. There is some scepticism among the farmers as to whether these roots and water will not freeze, both being above ground, but Mr. Albright is convinced that the insulation which he is providing, and the warmth germinated by the roots themselves together with the heat from the animals will keep everything in good order.

In the fields are rotation and variety tests for cereals of all kinds, but they have specialized on forage crops from the first.

"We knew they had a minor place in the cropping scheme for the time being," says Mr. Albright, "and we also knew we could get considerably bigger tonnage from green feed than from hay, yet from the standpoint of getting stock feed with a higher mineral and protein content as well as from the standpoint of keeping fibre and humus in the land we considered the work on forage crops well worth while."

"Of the grasses we have found that the Brome and Western Rye grasses are best adapted to our conditions and of the legumes, sweet clover and alfalfa gives the best results, always providing," he emphasises, "that the legumes are properly inoculated, which they usually are not at first."

In the second year after planting they generally found evidence of nitrogen starvation, particularly if it happened to be a cold year. This evidence of nitrogen deficiency was most noticeable if a nurse crop had been used, so one of their important experiments is with inoculation, the field tests being followed up with greenhouse work to save



Asters, Snapdragons and Kochia give profuse bloom at the Beaver Lodge Experimental Station.

PHOTOS BY W. D. ALBRIGHT

time. On the white woodland type soil, of which there is much in this country, excellent results were obtained in plots sown with seed treated with an acid tolerant strain of bacteria supplied them by Dr. H. G. Thornton of Rothamstead, Eng.

"In dry years," says Mr. Albright, "inoculation plots will give from twice to ten times the growth of plots not inoculated. The amount of increase depends upon the soil, the season, and method of culture. Uninoculated alfalfa sown thinly in rows and inter-cultivated does passably, he says, because cultivation stimulates nitrification."

"There is no trouble in growing it," says Mr. Albright, "indeed we have got to the point where our problem is to kill it when it is well established."

Usually they find the alfalfa more hardy than the sweet clover but last year it so happened that when winter came there was a great deal of ice lying on the land and the sweet clover seemed to withstand this ice covering better than did the alfalfa. They have proved that all soil types in that area will grow alfalfa if sufficient moisture gets down, but there is a dry, hard soil which resists penetration of moisture even when there are good rains.

Many tests have been made in regard to methods of seeding, and it has been found that with any of the meadow crops a far surer catch can be obtained without a nurse crop. Also points out Mr. Stacey who is in charge of the forage work at Beaver Lodge, there is an average of three times as much hay in the year following seeding. This difference in hay yield may not equal the tonnage of cereal that could be obtained from a nurse crop but where hay is badly needed in the ration a ton of hay may often be worth more than a ton of green feed.

A rotation they are inclined to favor is two to three crops of grain, then an early-season fallow seeded in June or very early July to a grass-legume mixture without nurse crop, the land being then cropped two or three years to hay broken in June or early July of the third meadow year, cropped two or three years to grain and given one complete season of summerfallow.

Control of weeds is an important factor in this plan. Without a nurse crop the weeds grow up the first year; with a nurse crop they come the second year, but the plan at Beaver Lodge is to pasture closely the first year until about the second week in August and then let the crop go to fall. This gives fairly clean control of edible annuals. Of course when the land is wet it cannot be pastured.

There are some good sized field plots combining legumes and grasses for hay. One combination which they found especially satisfactory and which mounted a big tonnage this year, included four pounds each of sweet clover, alfalfa, western rye grass and brome. The first year there is quite a growth of sweet clover, and the second year the brome and alfalfa are rather dominant.

Grass and forage crops are going to be terribly important in this country which could easily equal southern Saskatchewan in the business of soil drifting. More spectacular perhaps than experiments with wheat, oats and alfalfa is the fact that a couple of years ago they ripened nineteen pounds of apples and 118 pounds of crabs at the Sub Station. It was the fourth crop of crabs and the



Flower Beds come into the picture at an early stage of settlement. The Wm. Gault home near Hythe.

second crop of standard apples. Most one at High Prairie on the farm of S. J. Fewang, an early settler in the district, coming originally from Morden, Manitoba. As well as being sheltered from wind breaks they also have to be protected from the rabbits and mice in winter, but that is like-wise true all over the prairies.

Supervised

from Beaver

Lodge are

five Illustration

Stations, two of which

are in the

Peace River

Block. A t

Baldone

East of Fort

St. John, the

station is on

the farm of J.

W. Abbott;

the one at

Pouce Coupe

is in charge

of Norman D.

Dow, a soldier

settler. On

Alberta side

there is one

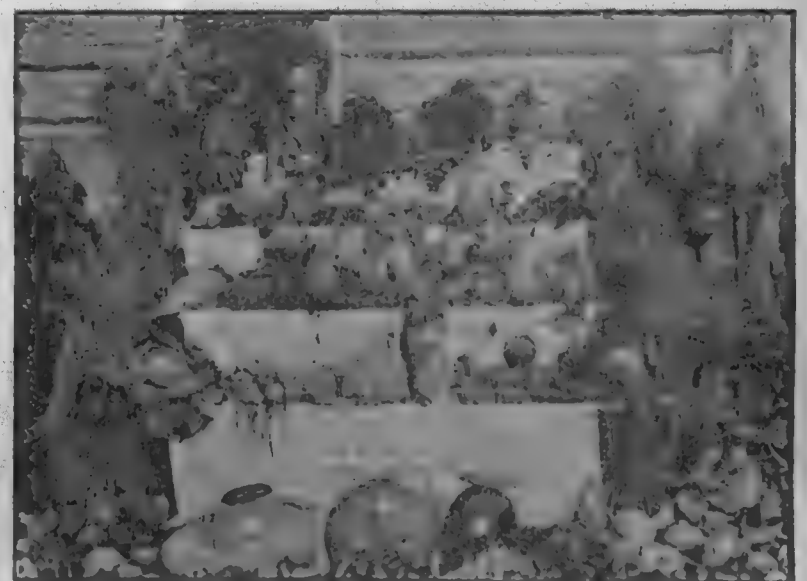
at Fairview in

charge of

Alex. MacKenzie;

one at Dreau, East of Peace River and 24 miles east of the

the Smoky in charge of A. B. Belanger; Alberta-British Columbia boundary.



An early day exhibit of fine vegetables

of Alex. MacKenzie; one at Dreau, East of Peace River and 24 miles east of the the Smoky in charge of A. B. Belanger; Alberta-British Columbia boundary.

"Nearest to God's heart
in a Garden"

Power Lines Bringing ELECTRIC SERVICE To Your Door



We Extend Most Sincere Greetings to those worthy pioneers who by their diligence and perseverance aided in the building up of this Great Peace River Country.



A tribute is due to the Town and Village Fathers whose foresight enabled them to visualize the great future in store for this magnificent country so that modern conveniences of life could be made available for its residents.



In 1928 the construction of a new power house and distribution system was commenced in the Town of Grande Prairie, replacing the old plant with up-to-date Diesel Engines. During the next two years some sixty miles of 13,200 volt line were built and the villages of Sexsmith, Clairmont, Wembley, Beaver Lodge and Hythe were given the same class of uninterrupted twenty-four hour service which Grande Prairie was enjoying. The System is now being supplied by three Diesel Engines totalling 800 h.p. ensuring adequate capacity to take care of the needs of the district for some time to come.

CANADIAN UTILITIES LTD.

Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Grande Prairie Herald

"IN THE SERVICE OF THE GREAT PEACE RIVER COUNTRY"

Section Two

SECTION TWO

GRANDE PRAIRIE HERALD OLD TIMERS HISTORICAL EDITION

PAGE 1—

21 Years of Northern Agricultural Development

In the history of any country, a period of only twenty-one years is generally supposed to be merely incidental. Yet so far as the Grande Prairie district is concerned, the short span of only twenty-one years embraces practically the whole history of actual development of this rich and resourceful farming district.

In his very splendid contribution to the history of agriculture in the Grande Prairie district, Mr. W. D. Albright has taken considerable pains to record the dates of arrival of the first people who attempted to grow grain or potatoes in this district. Such a task must prove a baffling undertaking, for the reason that just when one believes he has traced down the first instance of this or that agricultural attempt, new and unexpected information crops up, giving a totally different viewpoint.

Thus we find that although the earliest records available show that an attempt was made to grow wheat and potatoes in the Peace River country in 1881, other records show that the early missionaries on the lower Peace and Lake Athabasca had been growing their own gardens and a part of their own wheat supply for many years previous to that time. About the year 1873 a sample of wheat from the Roman Catholic mission farm at Chipewyan was sent to the international show, then held at Philadelphia, and received the first championship award to come to this vast north country.

Again in 1893 a visitor to the North Peace River country called at the Anglican mission farm conducted by the late Rev. Gough Brick. This farm was not, as many suppose, situated in the river valley at Shaftesbury, but was located on the upland about two miles from the present site of Brownvale. Here Rev. Brick conducted a school where the Indian children were taught, and here he broke a patch of about five acres, which was sowed to wheat. It was from this field that wheat was produced of so high a quality that the visitor in genuine surprise, remarked "I believe that is the finest wheat in the world. Let me send a sample of that to the international show in Chicago."

The sample was prepared and duly forwarded to Chicago, where it won the championship award, this making the second such award to come to the north country.

There is an interesting sidelight in connection with the work of Rev. Brick in producing this particular sample. As the wheat began to turn color late in August, the weather looked threatening. Fearing a touch of frost, the aged missionary began teaching his Indian boys a new game. Soon they were busy erecting an earthen barricade to a height of about four feet all the way around the five acre wheat plot. Next the boys divided into alternate camps, taking positions at each end of the plot, each group vying with the other to see whose campfire could produce the largest volume of smoke. Throughout the fall until the wheat was safely harvested and seasoned the game continued, the smoke screen proving the salvation of what really proved to be the world's finest wheat. Early travellers who passed over the trail past Old Wives Lake may

have wondered at the strange mound of soil that crossed the trail. The writer visited the place twenty years ago to verify the existence of such an embankment, and found it quite complete and easily traceable around the entire plot. Although the plot was level, the years that had intervened had given the poplar and willow brush the advantage, and it was fairly well grown up at that time.

In the years which followed may newcomers and agricultural pioneers brought in numerous samples of seed wheat of almost every variety, as recorded so carefully by Mr. Albright. But although a considerable number were conducting their first experiments in the years from 1900 on, it is safe to place the first appreciable grain production as about the year 1911, at which time a number of settlers were producing sufficient oats and wheat to meet the requirements of freighters and the vanguard of the real rush of settlement to the north country. No grain was grown for export, since there was no means of shipping it out of the district. About that time, however, construction began from Edmonton on the E.D. & B.C. railway toward the Peace River country. Settlers became encouraged and began breaking land in earnest.

By 1915 the railway had progressed so far that the early farmers of the Vanrenna settlement north of the Peace had been able to ship the first two carloads of wheat from the Peace River country by hauling it on sleighs 90 miles to the end of the steel. The following year the railway steel had reached the Grande Prairie district, and the first wheat from this district was awaiting its arrival. Harry Adair, the largest farmer of the district, had produced so much wheat that he had not enough grainaries to hold it, and when the steel arrived there were several carloads of wheat piled in a huge mound ready for shipment.

From that time forward, the agricultural development of the Grande Prairie district bounded forward. Incredible yields were reported and the first grain growers, writing back east to their former neighbors of the first wonderful results, encouraged rapid settlement. That was during the years, when abnormal grain prices prevailed, and wealth poured in so rapidly that no thought was given for a time to the exorbitant freight rates, which could only be borne because of the fact that the market price was even more unreasonably high than the freight charges.

With the collapse of war wheat prices, the problem of shipping wheat as a profit became serious, but after a fight which lasted several years a reduction of rates from the mountain structure to the prairie rates became effective, and once more agriculture in the district found itself on a profitable basis, and the race was on to see which farmers could break and seed the most land. Prices falling still lower, the question of profit became still more serious. When in 1922 the southern part of the province was frosted and was obliged to rely on the north country for its seed supply, the question of pure seed growing was brought sharply to atten-



Commercial Live Stock

The worst set back of the live stock industry was received in 1919-20. Previously there had been a great stimulation. Action and reaction are generally equal. The Cow Bill of the Alberta Government had made it easy for farmers to club together and go in debt for breeding cattle. Returned men were buying freely on credits advanced to them through the Soldier Settlement Board. Lest these two influences might not suffice, the bankers fairly fell over each other to lend money on livestock. Farmers were stopped on the street and urged to enter the banks and borrow a thousand dollars or two. One could go to a sale and find cows worth \$100.00 bid up to \$140.00 or \$150.00. Nearly always the settlement was with Cow-Bill, Soldier - Settlement-Board or Bank-loan funds. In addition to all this, stock was sent up from the southern part of the province for wintering. A long hard winter ensued. Snow came October 20 and lasted until May. Feed ran short. Neglected cattle piled up on each other to

die in exposed log stables. Straw was hauled far and near over deep-drifted trails to keep the animals alive. Even browse was resorted to towards spring and the distraught owners prayed with Wellington for "night or Blucher."

Deflation followed. Values went to pieces. Dry years and grasshoppers ensued until the desperate settler who had hung on and hung on finally sacrificed for a song the expensive remnants of his herd. The psychological reaction of that disaster has not yet been overcome.

Live stock production is not upon the even keel that is desirable. There is far too much in-and-out husbandry, particularly in hogs.

The story of recent production may be best told by statistics. It is to be remembered, however, that shipments over the Grande Prairie branch include a variable contribution from Pouce Coupe, which used to ship during winter via Spirit River but in summer via Grande Prairie, Wembley or Hythe.

SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK OVER THE GRANDE PRAIRIE BRANCH OF THE N.A.R., 1924-1933

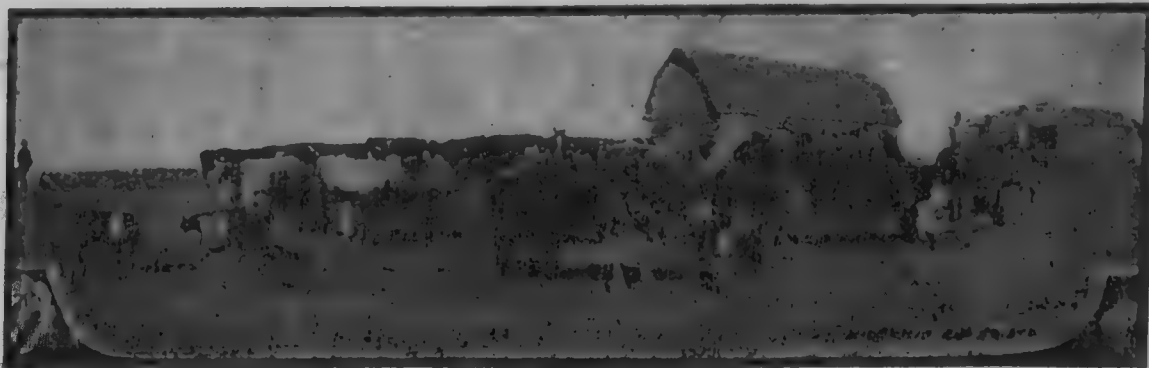
Including contributions from the Peace River Block of British Columbia

Year	All Live			
	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Horses
1924	5,484	9,883	379	101
1925	9,163	11,735	214	295
1926	3,325	9,200	85	140
1927	3,150	9,840	85	140
1928	3,750	13,360	340	180
1929	1,900	14,640	170	160
1930	1,125	12,400	595	0
1931	2,050	12,240	340	200
1932	2,025	17,680	510	100
1933	1,775	15,920	595	20
Totals	33,747	126,898	3,313	1,336

During the calendar year 1931, 23 per cent of the cattle, 20 per cent of the hogs, 0 per cent of the sheep and 70 per cent of the horses originated from stations in the British Columbia Block.

In 1932 the corresponding percentages were 21 per cent of cattle, 14 per cent of hogs, 33 per cent of sheep and 80 per cent of horses; in 1933, 20 per cent of the cattle, 16 per cent of the hogs, 29 per cent of the sheep and none of the horses.

A co-operative live stock shipping association was organized in 1917, when it shipped only three carloads. The annual shipments have recently run up to over two hundred carlots. Alex. Craig was an active promoter and for years the president. Wm. Grearson is the present head, with Roy Roberts, of Sexsmith, the efficient secretary.



UNITED GRAIN GROWERS

KEEPING PACE WITH . . DEVELOPMENTS

For twenty-eight years this Company has been serving western farmers in the handling of their grain. Through all that time it has developed to meet constantly changing conditions.

United Grain Growers pioneered in the development of the Vancouver route for grain, and was the first company to operate a terminal elevator at Vancouver in conjunction with country elevators in Alberta.

United Grain Growers pioneered in building elevators in the Peace River district as settlement here progressed.

Now the Company has a well balanced elevator system, with 450 elevators in the western provinces, a terminal elevator at Vancouver with a capacity of 2,600,000 bushels, and a terminal elevator at Port Arthur with a capacity of 5,500,000 bushels. The Vancouver elevator is shown in the picture below. Thus, whether grain flows to market by the eastern or the western route it is handled through the Company's own facilities.

Great changes have come over the methods of producing grain, as well as over conditions affecting its marketing during the twenty-eight years of United Grain Growers' history. But one thing has remained unchanged, the feeling of confidence with which western farmers deal with United Grain Growers.

UNITED GRAIN GROWERS LTD

WINNIPEG SASKATOON CALGARY EDMONTON



W. D. Albright, Superintendent of Experimental Station Is Most Enthusiastic Publicity Agent

The greatest publicity agent the Peace River country has ever known is that quiet, soft spoken personage who presides as superintendent of the sub-experimental station at Beaver Lodge, William Donald Albright.

Greatest, because none values the power of the press more; because every word and fact of

and their young daughter Florence Elleen, started the long journey to the far Peace River country. It might be mentioned here that Mrs. Albright's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lossing had settled at Beaver Lodge in 1909 and were sending back east glowing accounts of the fertility of the soil and oppor-



W. D. ALBRIGHT
Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Station at Beaver Lodge

ferred for publication is based on actual practical experience; because from early boyhood his fixed ambition has been to farm better than the average; because his keenest pleasure is found in helping others; because, he enjoyed ten years experience as a member of the fourth estate (journalism) on two of the outstanding farm journals of Canada.

Born in the garden of Ontario at South Cayuga, on August 15th, 1881, educated in the public schools, with two years in high school, and one year junior Matriculation, yet always with his eyes turned toward agriculture, it is not surprising to learn that he later took a two-year associate course in the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph.

While employed on the Ontario dairy farm of F. W. Hoson, then Dominion Livestock Commissioner, he was recommended for an assistant editorship of the *Maritime Farmer*, at Sussex, N.B. On arrival at Sussex he found his position to be that of Editor-in-chief, but that he proved capable is evidenced by an offer (which was accepted) coming a year and a half later to become associate editor of the *Farmers' Advocate* at London, Ontario. Three years later Mr. Albright became managing editor of the *Advocate*, a connection he maintained for a further five years, until the decision was reached to remove to the Peace River.

About the beginning of 1911 Mr. Albright persuaded his publishers to purchase and operate Wildwood Farm, near London. Management of this farm was directly in charge of him and the work carried on was similar to that for which he has become noted here in the Peace.

It was during this period, on May 22nd, 1908, to be exact that he realized another ambition when Miss Eva Belle Lossing, a talented educationalist and musician formerly of Summerville, Ontario, became Mrs. W. D. Albright.

Mr. Albright's parents, sister and one brother still reside at the old home in Ontario. One brother is deceased.

Resigning his post at the end of August, 1913, Mr. Albright, accompanied by Mrs. Albright

tunities awaiting in the Peace.

Their journey north from Ed-cache steamboat up the Athabasca, then by a little freight-cache steamboat down the Athabasca river and across Lesser Slave Lake to Grouard, thence by wagon (and about half way afoot) over the long overland trail to Beaver Lodge, where they arrived on October 26th.

Early in 1914, realizing that the north had many problems to be solved, Mr. Albright wrote Dr. J. H. Grisdale, then Director of Dominion Experimental Farms and offered to make a few gratuitous tests during 1914. The offer was promptly accepted and it was equivalent to being the birth of the Beaver Lodge sub-station. In view of the success of those first tests, the department in 1915 offered Mr. Albright \$200. to continue the work. This was hesitatingly accepted. In 1916 the offer was increased to \$400. In 1917 it was repeated but at this time Mr. Albright was seriously considering enlistment for overseas and it was not until Dr. Grisdale offered to lease 20 acres of his land and pay a part-time salary, that he gave up his enlistment thoughts and reluctantly settled down to give his close undivided attention to the experimental work.

From this small beginning, the Beaver Lodge sub-station has grown to a point where 70 acres are now plotted and used for intensive study, under the supervision of Mr. Albright, assisted by a staff ranging from six in winter to fourteen and fifteen during the summer months.

Mr. Albright owns three-quarter sections, which is farmed on his personal account by efficiently supervised help.

In addition to his multiplicity of duties, Mr. Albright finds the time to visit practically every community in the Peace River (including the B.C. Block) every summer, attending field days, visiting the five illustration stations to collaborate with their owners and operators and delighting vast audiences with his inimitable lectures, many of which are backed with thousands of colored slides made from photographs taken by him personally.

Always a keen supporter of community endeavours and having accompanied by Mrs. Albright served several terms as

president of the Beaver Lodge Board of Trade, it was largely through his indefatigable efforts that the Associated Boards of Trades of the Peace River organization was effected in 1931. Mr. Albright served as its president for two years, carrying it through its most difficult period.

Scores of weekly newspapers in Western Canada recognize the value to their readers of his "Timely Hints," published each week, which brings solutions to many of the problems confronting the farmers, horticulturists and livestock breeders of the West.

"It is a pleasure as well as a duty to serve," has been the motto of the man who has accomplished much to make conditions in the Peace River more helpful for its residents.

Mrs. Albright Is Talented and Gracious Hostess

Described as one of the most charming and hospitable ladies of the Peace, by both noted visiting dignitaries and local residents, Mrs. Eva Belle Albright has won for herself almost as much honor as has her well known husband, W. D. Albright.

The beautiful Albright home surrounded by its spacious velvety lawns, bordered with flowers of every hue and variety occupies a prominence from which can be clearly seen the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains far to the south.

All of the pleasure of a visit to the Albright home is not confined to the beautiful surroundings, nor the magnificent view. Much of that pleasure is encompassed in the genial welcome extended by its charming hostess and her lovely daughter. Whether you happen to be the Governor General of Canada or merely a newly arrived settler in the north, you are immediately made to feel at home.

Eva Belle Lossing was born at Summerville, Ontario, the only daughter of Richard Cromwell and Mary Ann Avey Lossing successful farmers.

A brilliant scholar, passing her entrance exams at ten, public school leaving at eleven to be followed with a brilliant record in the Woodstock Collegiate Institute where she took two years work in one and won a scholarship in mathematics and moderns, and a first class teachers' certificate.

In music Miss Lossing also made remarkable progress, becoming a brilliant pianist.

It was in May, 1908, that she became Mrs. W. D. Albright and as a helpmeet and homemaker has registered her greatest achievements. Three children have blessed the union, Florence Elleen, born at London, Frederick Bruce and Robert Gordon at Beaver Lodge. The children have shown traits of inheritance from their talented mother and it is expected they will make a mark of their own in the near future.

Hon. Hugh W. Allen Came Over Athabasca-Sturgeon Trail in 1911

Twenty-three years ago last March there arrived over the Athabasca-Sturgeon Lake Trail a family of four, father mother and wife with Hugh Allen.

Tall, slim, reserved but with a genial smile for all, the young Ontario ex-factory chemist settled quickly into the work of preparing a home for his loved ones.

True, he was born and raised on a farm near Stella, Ontario, but at an early age he had gone off to attend the Collegiate Institute at Kingston and after graduation secured employment in a chemical works at Tweed.

It was at Tweed, he met and

last was called hence, after more than twenty years of active service in the affairs of the community.

Mrs. William Allen makes her home with her son and daughter-in-law.

Mrs. H. W. Allen

Central Ontario can boast of few better known or more highly regarded families than the Sills.

Coming from revered United Empire Loyalist stock, the Sills families of Belleville and Tweed districts have long been leaders in agriculture, trade and commerce.

Mrs. Mabel Sills Allen is one of a family of three girls and three boys born to Simeon Wilson and Jane Elizabeth Clarke Sills at Tweed, Ontario.

Two brothers and one sister still reside there, one sister lives in Buffalo, N.Y., while one brother is deceased. Both parents have passed on.

Following graduation from public and high schools and a period of special training, Mrs. Allen entered the teaching profession which was followed until her marriage in January, 1911.

As the wife of a pioneer homesteader, and homemaker Mrs. Allen has been most successful. As a hostess, her gracious hospitality has endeared her to a host of friends. As the wife of a Minister of the Crown she is bound to add to the already large circle of close personal friends.



HON. HUGH W. ALLEN
Minister of Municipal Affairs, Lands and Mines, and Provincial Director of Relief

on January 8th, 1911, married the charming Miss Mabel Sills, daughter of pioneers of that district, then deceased.

Almost immediately following the wedding, the happy couple set forth, with his parents, for the great adventure into the far off Peace River country.

Having made a success of his farming operations Mr. Allen diverted his talents toward the attainment of political triumphs. As the unanimous candidate of the United Farmers of Alberta he was elected to the Legislature in 1926. Four years later he was re-elected by acclamation.

On the formation of the Reid government late this summer, he was invited into the cabinet and given the portfolios of Minister of Municipal Affairs, Lands and Mines, and Provincial Director of Relief.

At the age of forty-five Mr. Allen is realizing an ambition of many years during which a careful intensive study of economics and governmental affairs has eminently fitted him to become an important factor in the affairs of Alberta.

On November 15th, 1932, his beloved father, William Allen,

Mr. and Mrs. Edgerton Beaverlodge Pioneers

Twelve days on the Edson Trail afoot, carrying a sixty pound pack and a shotgun, food running low and rivers running high, did not daunt Charles Francis Edgerton as late in the fall of 1911 he made his way into the Peace and on to Lower Beaver Lodge district where he selected his homestead and has since continued to reside.

In speaking of his experiences, Mr. Edgerton only comments, that while some might consider it a hardship, still it was but an incident in the lives of the pioneers.

Six years later, he led Miss Lulu Sherk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Sherk, members of the original "Bull Outfit" of 1909 to the altar and five healthy young Peace Riverites later came to gladden their home. One boy remained but a short time, dying in his infancy.

Today the Edgertons are regarded as not only one of the pioneer families of the Beaver Lodge district but foremost in all church and community endeavors.



The Beautiful Home and Grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Albright at the Beaver Lodge Farm. On this spacious lawn, with its wealth of shrubbery and flowers, Mr. and Mrs. Albright have entertained many notable visitors to the Grande Prairie district.

History of Agriculture, Grande Prairie District

By W. D. Albright, Superintendent Dominion Experimental Station, Beaver Lodge

Though agriculture in the Grande Prairie district dates back not nearly so far as at some other points, such as Dunvegan, Spirit River and Fort Vermilion, the story of its grain raising already carries us a generation into the past and its potato culture much further, while the beginning of horse ranching is veiled in obscurity.

This tale pretends neither to completeness nor to entire reliability. Notwithstanding that months of effort, representing intermittent interviews extending over twelve years, have been spent in accumulating and checking data—sometimes borrowed by other writers—the dearth of written records and the imperfect, often conflicting, recollections of witnesses deny unimpeachable accuracy. The task has not been lightened by the diffidence of many participants approached. Largely through their demur regrettable gaps occur in the records, these having the effect of throwing other features and other actors into relatively undue prominence.

Imperfect as the story stands, no little pains have been taken in its compilation and hope is that the account may prove a convenient nucleus around which an adequate history may some day be built. The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to scores of witnesses, but particularly to Alex. Monkman, who has from memory alone given one of the most precise and dependable interviews the author has ever taken down from any man on any subject.

While considerable data is in hand relating to other parts of the Peace present discussion is confined to the Grande Prairie district, which is plenty for one order.

Delving into personal narratives, one is impressed with the part played by the Klondike rush in the agricultural settlement of the West. After the early fur traders, missionaries and natives of pure and mixed blood many of the prime actors on the scene were baffled Yukoners who had essayed one or another of the inland routes. Many other settlers were directly or indirectly attracted to the Peace by reports of returning argonauts.

Sequential treatment being difficult it has been decided to group the story around successive heads, taking crop production first.

CROP PRODUCTION

Where the First Potatoes Were Grown

The first attempt at cropping seems to have been with potatoes on what is known as the Williams homestead, near where La Glace now stands. At that point the Hudson's Bay Company had a post on the old Indian "pitching" trail which led from Blueberry Mountain south over the Burnt Hills and across the Prairie to Saskatoon Lake. There it forked, one branch bearing a little south of west to the old crossing of the Beaver Lodge river while the other bore south of east to Flying Shot Lake, which seems to have been the rendezvous of the "free traders." The late George Kennedy, whose widow resides in Edmonton, was in charge of the post and according to Col. J. K. Cornwall, first planted potatoes there in 1881. Monkman antedates this initial effort by six years. He says Kennedy had told him of planting potatoes at the H. B. post twenty-five years before his own first attempt. Cornwall's information, however, was based upon a special interview with Kennedy. The ground being somewhat low and flat potatoes do not seem to have proven a safe crop in those early days. Adverse reports of these initial efforts, coupled with frost occur-

rences observed by travellers, camping usually in the low places, gave the Grande Prairie district a poor reputation agriculturally. Even the late Charles Bremner, who farmed successfully at Spirit River, is said to have shared this opinion.

The next attempt at potato culture of which we have convincing record was made by Mr. Monkman at Flying Shot Lake in 1900, while the first grain of which we have record was grown at Lake Saskatoon by Louis Callihoo and Alex. Monkman.

Louis Callihoo is a native, at least partly of Iroquois extraction, who claims he first saw the Grande Prairie in 1897 but in 1900 brought in his family, leaving Slave Lake on March 20 of that year, according to an interview obtained by Wm. Moody, of Moody's Crossing, where Mr. Callihoo now lives. Mr. and Mrs. Monkman, however are both positive he is a year out in his dates for Mrs. Monkman recalls visiting Mrs. Callihoo in 1901 upon the latter's first arrival. According to the Moody interview, Callihoo's outfit included six horses, four cows and a bull, four bushels of oats, two bushels of barley and some potatoes, the latter obtained at Spirit River. Squatting at what

was afterwards surveyed as the fractional school section on which the Lake Saskatoon Consolidated school now stands he planted potatoes on May 16 and had a good yield. This he thought was 1900 but it must have been not earlier than 1901. Oats and barley were not seeded until a year later and wheat some years later still. The seed oats and barley had come from Peace River; the wheat from Slave Lake. It was described as "a soft wheat." A wash-out across his land caused him to move some years later.

Born in Manitoba of Red River settlement stock, with childhood recollections of buffalo hunting on the Saskatchewan plains and with subsequent experience mining at Butte, Mon. Alex. Monkman was a Klondike argonaut who turned back from Dunvegan in 1898 and was next year sent by Bredin and Cornwall to pick a site for a trading post in the Grande Prairie country. Southwest of Saskatoon lake at the forks of the trail he established a post and in 1900 brought in a bride. In 1900 he planted Early Rose potatoes at Flying Shot and the next year, if he remembers correctly, at the southwest corner of Saskatoon lake. In that year he broke

some land, which was cropped to oats in 1902. In 1903, when the late Prof. James Macoun was looking over the country, Mr. Monkman had small crops of potatoes, oats, wheat and barley. The latter two grains grown from samples received from the government. In the same year on the flat at the Beaver Lodge Crossing Frank Knutt, who came in with his father-in-law, Johnny Grant, had planted a small piece of land to wheat, oats, potatoes and vegetables. Macoun found Knutt's wheat barely headed on August 17, the tips of the heads having been frosted. The oats looked well and potatoes were in flower. Knutt abandoned the place, however.

Louis Callihoo's barley impressed Macoun favourably but Monkman's wheat was only blossoming on August 16 and could hardly ripen, he opined. "His grain and vegetables" we read, "were not planted until the first week in June as he had waited until the frost was out of the ground." He did not think the Grande Prairie country would ever produce wheat on a commercial scale.

"The fact is," explains Mr. Monkman, "that my cropping was only a side issue of my own, and work on the land had to

wait until the trading rush was over."

Mr. Monkman continued to farm until in 1905 he had about eight acres in crop. Each year he put in the grain samples sent him, with the exception of one sample received probably in 1906. Seeing the mistake of late seeding he tried year by year to seed sooner and succeeded in ripening wheat at Lake Saskatoon. A mile south lay the land that was destined to make Trelle famous. After leaving the employ of Bredin and Cornwall, who sold out to Revillon Freres in 1906, Alex. Monkman moved on to a place at the west end of Bear Lake, which he afterwards bought at \$1.00 an acre. Potatoes planted there froze year after year. In 1910 he planted them south of the Cutbank lake, where he now lives, and here has always raised a good garden.

In 1904, Charles Nicholson squatted east of Saskatoon Island. He was an Englishman who had studied veterinary science for a time in Edinburgh. W. F. Bredin thinks he came north with some Klondike outfit but Wm. Grant, who knew him well, does not think he came as far as Grande Prairie that way, but recalls that Nicholson had

(Continued on page five)

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History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(Continued from Page Four)
packed for Jones on the G.T.P. survey. He subsequently threw in with Mead and Grant, later getting a bunch of cattle and going across the Smoky. Mr. Bredin nursed him one summer for rheumatic fever. Enlisting for overseas service he was gazetted for veterinary work in the army but went into the firing line and was killed.

On March 2, 1908, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Clifford arrived at Flying Shot lake following a scouting trip for oil by Mr. Clifford the previous year. Their purpose was trading but Mrs. Clifford proved a home maker, who raised a garden, kept poultry, made butter, canned fruit, and even received from the Dominion Horticulturist five apple trees, which however, were too long en route. Two or three lived. One had crab apples in 1932, says the late John Watson. About 1912 she received a three-pound sample of Marquis wheat, which was planted and did well.

In June the Bensons arrived and went to Kleskun to live, first staying a while with the Cliffords at Flying Shot. Mr. Benson had been in the previous autumn on a scouting trip.

One of the first real farmers to come into the district and establish permanently was W. H. ("Bill") Smith, the father of Clyde and Harry. The Smiths settled a mile northwest of the present site of Grande Prairie town. Monkman, who is seldom astray on a fact, dates their arrival as the spring of 1906 though Mrs. Clifford insisted it was the spring of 1907. Wm. Grant positively agrees with Mrs. Clifford, citing circumstances to support his recollection. Wm. Bernard endorses these, recalling that it was the winter of the deep snow (1906-7) and the boys had to walk ahead of the team to break trail. This little discrepancy illustrates the enormous difficulty there has been in weaving the present story. On leaving Edmonton he and his two sons started for the Peace with a team, a wagon, a few pieces of machinery and a sparse grubstake. Seed was bought from Mead and Grant. He put his team to work breaking up the sod and for the first few years raised only oats. Later when the local production threatened to overtax the local demand he swung over to stock. He had been in new countries before. After the first crop was harvested money came.

The Smiths had the outfit which surveyed the Flying Shot settlement run a line out to the land they had chosen. When the first survey party arrived the late Lieut. (afterwards Captain) Jim Mead rode down from Lake Saskatoon and accosted him thus:

"Say, Smith, what do you mean by charging the first government men who came here \$2. a bushel for oats?"

"Well, isn't that enough?" was the characteristic reply.

"One time" recalls Mr. Innes, Malcolm Campbell was trying to get a newcomer interested in investing in the town of Grande Prairie and the prospect remarked that the railway would be extended leaving Grande Prairie behind. Smith who had been listening in, observed:

"Yes, the railway came to Chicago and stayed there for a few years, then built on to Omaha and left Chicago behind. Later it built on from Omaha and left Omaha behind."

Sitting one day in front of the Selkirk Trading Company store Mr. Smith was telling of having had to pay \$11.00 for oats in the early days of Colorado where he had a construction contract of some sort. Henry Henderson, the old-time pilot of the White Horse Rapids and a brother of Bob Henderson, prominent in the discovery of gold in the Yukon, was present and told of

having whip-sawed lumber for a contractor in that same Colorado territory about the same time. He recalled that one Sunday morning the contractor induced him to get aboard a nice quiet-looking mule. By the description of what happened the mule's looks must have been very deceiving. Old Man Smith was chuckling away during this narrative having been the contractor of thirty or forty years before.

The Smiths seem to have had a ranch over at Egg Lake and also kept stoppers at times. Clyde was the farmer and Harry the cook. "Bill" Innes remembers Harry's pie quite favorably.

When the old gentleman got spruced up he used to be quite a fine, square-built man, and with his Stetson hat and goatee one could picture him as the old-time rancher Zane Grey would describe. He was a resourceful man, able to handle himself well under any circumstances, and by his ready wit would invariably turn a strained situation into a laugh.

He was a shrewd dealer and would strike a Yankee bargain in business yet was described as open-hearted and honourable. In the occasional poker game he scarcely ever lost.

He failed rapidly in health before leaving and at the last no one would take him for the man he used to be.

"If I had the gift of writing," says his friend and banker, "I could write a book on him alone. He was a character and a very lovable one at that."

Clyde is now ranching or farming on the Smoky at Watino.

Farm hand, cowboy, timber cruiser and operator, A. M. Bezanson, a Bluenose of English parentage and Huguenot extraction, was looking for a last west. While at International Falls, Minn., one day early in 1906 he saw the map of a great unsurveyed area drained by a river called the Peace. In April, 1906, he landed in Edmonton en route for the promised land. During an adventurous reconnoitering trip he travelled north of the Peace to Fort St. John in company with John Revillon, Wm. Short, general manager of Revillon Freres, Charlie Roberts, district manager of Revillons, Dave Sexsmith, Major Constantine of the R.N.W.M.P., Mrs. Constantine and their coachman and cook, and then after dispersal of the party started for the Pine Pass with a pack horse. The Beaver Indians, he relates, stole his pack horse, leaving him stranded in the bush, but he eventually made his way back over the country south of the Peace. At Fort St. John he met Hector Tremblay, the first settler in Pouce Coupe.

Thrilled with the prospects of the country and the national import thereof, he was anxious to controvert the disparaging report (since suppressed) of the late James Macoun and wrote a small book which eventually attracted quite a few settlers to the new Canada.

In 1907 he returned to the Peace for the purpose of locating a combination millsite and a procurable body of timber adjacent to a potential farming area. The report of Dr. Dawson, on the confluence of the Big Smoky, the Wapiti and Simonette in which he stated that it was the only feasible railway crossing of the Big Smoky, plus the fact that the C.P.R. and Grand Trunk Pacific had both surveyed across at that point plus the fact that at the confluence of those rivers was an ideal millsite, caused him to choose that location. In 1907, squat there and hire a cabin built. He afterwards ran a good stopping place there.

His first crop was oats, put in the last week of April, 1908. It

(Continued on page seven)

A . . NORTHERN SERVICE

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce

maintains for twelve months of every year a public service for every part of Central and Northern Alberta, and the great Northland beyond.

The strategic position of Edmonton as the gateway to the great Northland presents a splendid opportunity for service to that wonderful part of our Canadian dominion.

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce willingly accepts the responsibilities of the opportunity and enthusiastically labors in the interests of the Northland as a whole.

Information freely given on

LAND SETTLEMENT
FARMING ADVANTAGES
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
MINING RESOURCES
TOURIST FACILITIES
HUNTING AND FISHING
MANUFACTURES
RURAL ORGANIZATION

Co-operation and support given to all Northern Boards of Trade on their problems.

During the last ten years the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce has distributed thousands of pamphlets and maps on the Peace River Country and has written thousands of letters portraying the advantages and the coming greatness and wealth of that wonderful part of Canada.

Farmers, business men and all citizens of the North are always welcome in the office of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce.

This advertisement is inserted by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce as a mark of appreciation of Edmonton business men to the pioneer farmers and business men of the North, and a promise of continued co-operation.

John Blue,

Secretary.

Gerald O'Connor,

President.

1912



P. J. TOOLEY
*Present Mayor of Grande Prairie
who left Edson, Alta., enroute
for Grande Prairie, arriving here
in January of 1912*

1934

The

PIONEER LAND MAN

Of The Great Peace River Country

To that spirit of adventure which prompted our early settlers to this, then wild, country, far from the safety and comforts of civilization, to make their homes, I am extremely happy to add my token of respect.

I am grateful for the friendship that has been extended to me in my relations with the people of this community. My admiration goes out to those brave men and women who have carried on through trials and difficulties of the early days

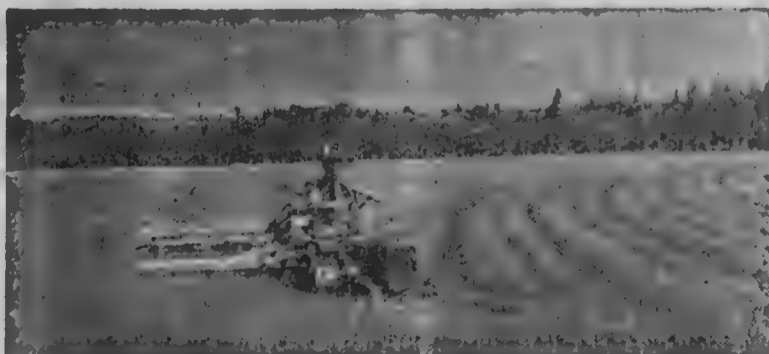
As a pioneer myself I am proud of Grande Prairie and district and the sound, steady progress, both are making. I look forward to the future with unbounded confidence.

*Phone:
No. 13*

P. J. TOOLEY

*P.O. Box:
984*

Real Estate and Insurance



History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(Continued from Page Five)
was sown by hand and dragged in with willow brush. The seed had been brought in from Edmonton. By the first week of July it was yellow and thin and looked hopeless. On August 27 he cut it with a mower. It was five feet high and would have threshed 80 bushels per acre, he is sure.

Apart from settlement surveys there was no land subdivided in the Peace until 1909. He visited Ottawa, interviewed the Surveyor-General and the Commissioner of Dominion Lands to convince them that the country merited survey and settlement.

Walter McFarlane was sent up in 1909 but Bezanson's place was left unsurveyed. In 1909-10 Mr. Bezanson again visited Ottawa to protest against this omission and the Surveyor-General ordered it and some other districts surveyed. During that visit to Ottawa he formed a partnership with S. J. Webb.

In 1906 Mead and Grant arrived in the country and began ranching. The first year they broke up the tough gumbo at the west end of Bear Lake and planted a garden, being rather surprised to reap some result under the indifferent conditions. In 1907 they sowed Banner oats east of Saskatoon Lake, where Wm. Grant still lives. Capt. Mead having been killed in the Great War. In 1907 Lieut. Mead as he then was, had brought in a few sacks of Kansas Red, Alberta Red or Turkey Red winter wheat secured from W. R. Dobbie, in Southern Alberta. Sown that fall it did very well indeed. It was grown successfully for a number of years and in 1909 some of the first crop was flailed out on shares by several young men for the Beaver Lodge settlers, who thus got a

start in winter wheat. Some of this same stock is still grown in the Beaver Lodge and Halcourt districts. This did better than the little sack of Dawson's Golden Chaff winter wheat which Amos Sherk carefully brought along from Ontario, but which proved ill adapted to the winter as it has since done on the Experimental Sub-Station. There is an old joke on Col. "Jim" Cornwall in connection with this winter wheat. During the absence of the growers he picked a handful to take out as an advertisement of the country. There was a sprinkling of winter rye and the heads he pulled were rye. Some one en route to Edmonton put him wise but legend says the rye continued its journey in other hands.

About 1908 or 1909 Mead and Grant had some Red Fife seed wheat freighted in at 8 cents a pound but it did not arrive till June. Though frosted it yielded around 40 bushels per acre and made seed. After that it ripened regularly east of the lake but as it was subject to smut Marquis was obtained as soon as it began to attract attention and has been grown ever since.

Among other settlers arriving in 1907-08 were P. C. Murphy and Ernest Hawkinson, the latter in September, 1907.

BULLS SUPPLIED UNDER SIRE-LOAN POLICY

According to John Norquay, Senior Fieldman of the Dominion Live Stock Branch, stationed in Edmonton, some 300 bulls were from 1914 to the end of 1933 shipped to the North Country (mainly the Peace) under the sire-loan policy. Approximately 190 to 200 associations were formed, quite a number of the original ones carrying on long enough to require

one, two and sometimes three replacements. In the days when John Lamont, of Berwyn, was in the Shorthorn business several of his bulls were purchased. Latterly some have been purchased from the Wilkinsons, of Nampa, and this last summer two of Alex Craig's were shipped to Whitelaw. Again some loan bulls were exchanged within the North Country.

Some associations disbanded after being in existence for the period of usefulness of the original bull loaned. Some were still going strong when the policy was cancelled in 1937.

Mr. Norquay has kindly segregated the loan associations north and south of the river indicating the breeds employed, following is a tabulation of the associations as down to the end of 1933:

BULL-LOAN ASSOCIATIONS 1914-1933

Year	South of Peace						North of Peace					
	Shorthorn	Hereford	Angus	Red Pole	Holstein	Ayrshire	Guernsey	Shorthorn	Hereford	Angus	Red Pole	Ayrshire
1914	4	1										
1915	4											
1916								8				
1917	4							3				
1918	10	3	1					3				
1919	12							4				
1920	12	3						8				
1921	14	1			1			7	1			3
1922	7	1	3					2				
1923	4	1	1		1			4	1	1		5
1924	3	1										
1925												
1926	3						7					
1927												
1931	13	1						10	1	8		
1932	9	1						5		1		
1933	8	1								3	2	
Totals	107	7	12		2	7	3	52	4	2	12	2

NOTE—Along with the three Guernsey bulls supplied in 1926 three purebred Guernsey heifers were sent on private purchase. A negligible number of Short-

horn bulls have also been shipped on private order.

In a letter dated November 19, 27 more bulls are listed as having been shipped in 1934 to new associations under the sire-loan policy. South of the Peace there were 13 Shorthorns and 1 Aberdeen-Angus. North of the Peace, 6 Shorthorns, 6 Herefords and 1 Red Poll.

HORTICULTURE

Among many aspirants in horticulture six names are linked with conspicuous achievement. They are Mrs. O. H. Johnson of Beaver Lodge, the late Mrs. Mary Thompson, of Grande Prairie, the late Mr. John Watson, of Flying Shot, C. M. Clarke and Bert Mackey, both of Teepee Creek, Alta., and Frank Guthrie, of Grande Prairie. Mrs. Thompson, who developed on the south shore of

lieved to have been the first apples grown on Grande Prairie. Being the product of ungrafted seedlings the fruit was scarcely larger than haws. For several years she raised these as well as abundance of small fruits, tomatoes and the like, not to mention a wealth of ornamentals. Two married daughters, Mrs. Mead and Mrs. Roberts, followed in her steps as especially devoted gardeners.

Mrs. O. H. Johnson achieved early success with Early Dakota strawberries, gooseberries, currants and raspberries and had a fine garden in general. After several failures with outside strawberry plants the Experimental Sub-station in 1918 got a start in Early Dakotas from Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. W. L. Brainard, of Brainard P.O., has latterly done particularly well with strawberries and Mrs. South and others have produced them commercially, particularly along the Wapiti. Years ago the Tesars of Sexsmith exhibited fine ever-bearing strawberries at the local fairs.

Mr. Watson was a trained gardener born in Scotland with experience in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Coming to Grande Prairie in 1916 and settling at Flying Shot Lake he proved a great asset to the Peace. In his sandy garden on the west side of the lake he did wonderfully well with vegetables and small fruits, save for one very bad attack of hail. The Sub-station's hardest gooseberry, Oregon Champion, was supplied by Mr. Watson. At first he featured vegetables, selling wholesale to Wood and Lyne, of Grande Prairie, under an exclusive contract. He recalls taking in a \$50.00 democrat load and seeing them all snatched by the store's customers within two hours. Of later years after production became more general he turned his attention to small fruits and nursery stock, at which he did well until falling

(Continued on page eleven)



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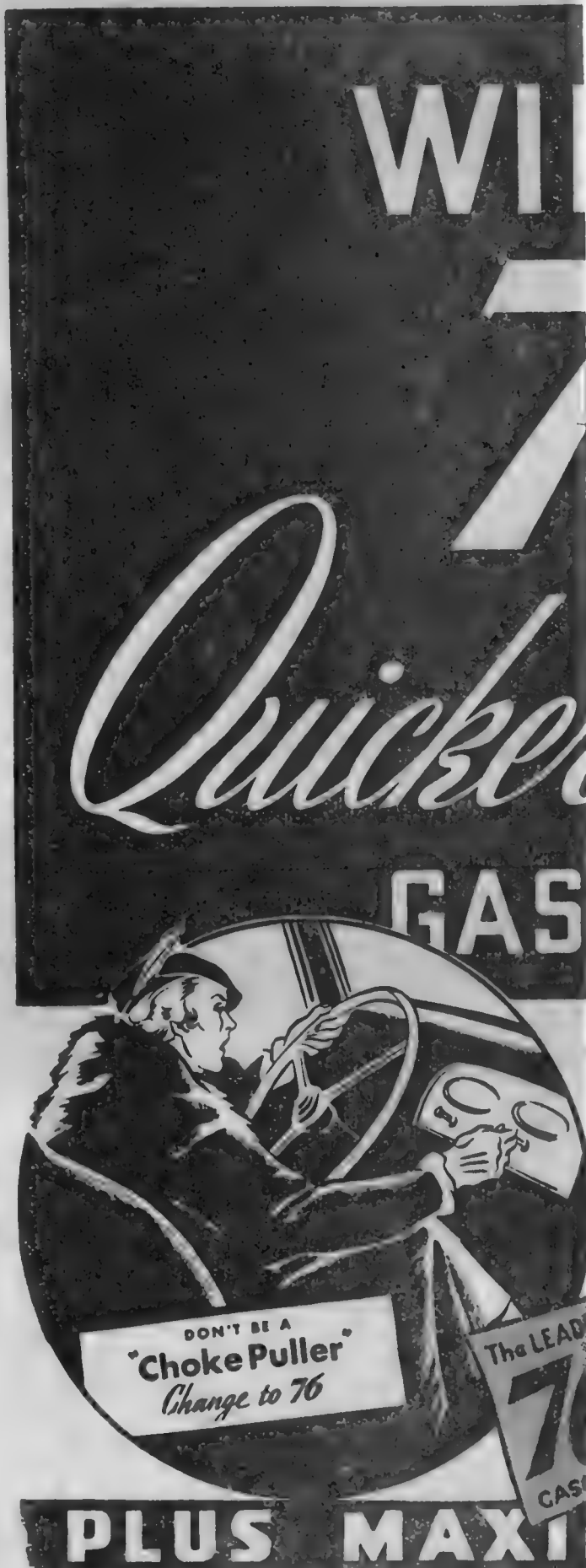
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No. 9

No. 202

1916



J. E. THOMSON

1934

A Tribute To The Pioneers

If we had the space and time we should like to speak a personal word to each of the Old Timers of this district. But as this is out of the question we take this opportunity of saying a few words of appreciation to the men and women who braved the hardships of the early days and laid the foundation of the splendid community of which Grande Prairie is the centre.

May we never forget the service they have rendered, their devotion to the welfare of the settlement and their warm fellowships and their fine friendships.

The Big Corner Hardware Store

As one of the first hardware stores to open for business in Grande Prairie we are glad and proud to have had the opportunity of serving this community, and take pride in the fact that the hardware material used in many of the business blocks and homes of the town and homes and out-buildings of the country, was furnished by us.

The Thomson - Dalglish Garage

was started by J. E. Thomson in 1916. Mr. Thomson, by the way has the distinction of being the oldest Chevrolet dealer in the Province of Alberta.

THOMSON HARDWARE LTD.

"Don't Say Hardware----Say Thomson's"

History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(Continued from Page Seven)
health led to his passing in the autumn of 1934.

C. M. Clarke is a returned man, native of the West Indies. Well schooled, and a devoted horticulturist, he has achieved remarkably with various crops, including flowers, vegetables and fruits, ripening several varieties of crab apples and plums.

Bert Mackey pioneered in the culture of Blackcap raspberries, having commenced in 1928 by obtaining from the Patmore Nursery a variety thought to be the Gregg. On his deep black soil he finds it even more productive than the red raspberry. He has done well with Senator Dunlap strawberries, Dwarf Champion gooseberries and has even seedling peach and apricot trees growing, although not promising extravagantly.

In 1931 J. J. Floen, Buffalo Lake, picked 17 pounds of crabs, while Alfred H. Ward, of Sexsmith, had a Transcendent tree bearing its third crop.

Loganberries grown in 1925 by Jacob Smith, midway between Beaver Lodge and Lake Saskatoon, were exhibited at the Lake Saskatoon Fair and in 1932 a nice sample was received from John Clark of Bad Heart, while F. M. Sanger-Davies, of Grande Prairie picked over a quart of luscious fruit. In February, 1934, Mrs. E. Harvey, R.R.1, Sexsmith, wrote that she had a few loganberries which had borne very fine fruit. Capt. Blake has raised some wonderful vegetables down on the Smoky River flats. In the autumn of 1933 he exhibited typical Mountain Danvers onions raised from spring-sown seed. The largest weighed 12 ounces and the average was 11 ounces.

Sandcherries ripened fruit on the Sub-station in 1914, when, also, a Tom Thumb sand-cherry-plum hybrid produced three plums. Osman crabs were ripened in 1929 and successively thereafter. Other crabs came into fruit while in 1931 two Hibernial apples of standard size were produced—one for Adam and one for Eve. In 1932 the Sub-station produced 132 pounds of apples and crabs including 17 pounds of a choice summer apple, the Blushed Calville. There were six varieties of crabs as well as 18 pounds of plums, 6 pounds of elderberries and a few blackberries along with the usual lavish crop of small fruits. Rabbit girdling and winter injury have since reduced the production of tree fruits although wild plums bore copiously in 1934 and for the third successive season there were a few Blushed Calville apples.

While the apple is admittedly an exotic in the Peace, hardy varieties of domestic small fruits and ornamentals as well have succeeded beyond the most daring dreams of the early enthusiasts. On the Sub-station alone well over a hundred species of woody ornamentals are growing with more or less success. Lilacs have bloomed for many years and several rosebushes annually since 1927.

About 1924 Frank Guthrie began to develop the market-garden business pretty strongly. From about that time until 1930 business grew until he found the shortage of glass space a great drawback. Plants, etc., were sent out all over the Peace. In one case bedding plants were shipped to Dakota. Today nothing in the vegetable line is shipped out of town as the two wholesale houses take all he can raise in the season. March to July, Mr. Guthrie specializes in leaf lettuce, radish, bedding plants, cucumbers and tomatoes. Many a settler and villager has had cucumbers and tomatoes from plants started under his glass.

THE DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL SUB-STATION

While in Ottawa during the winter of 1909-10 A. M. Bezanson interviewed Dr. Wm. Saunders, then Director of Experimental Farms, asking that a demonstration farm be established on Grande Prairie. Because of his own river-valley situation not being typical it was agreed that his new partner, S. J. Webb, should carry on the work somewhere out on the prairie.

Mr. Webb, who was born in London, England, had before striking up a cattle-ranching partnership with Mr. Bezanson, been dairying and mixed-farming for 15 years in Ontario. He left for the Peace in June, 1910, and, travelling from Edmonton by stage, boat and wagon via Peace River-Crossing, arrived in July, locating at the Cow Camp west of Bear Lake.

By an interesting coincidence the report of the Director for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1912, noted that arrangements had been made with Mr. S. J. Webb, of Beaver Lodge, Grande Prairie, Alta., to carry on some experimental work for the Department on his farm at that point. "Beaver Lodge" was at that time the name of the post office afterwards called "Lake Saskatoon," and finally superseded by "Wembley." What is now Beaver Lodge was for a time called Redlow. Thus, from the beginning the name of Beaver Lodge was linked with the experimental work.

The plot work was actually done, however, near the Smoky River on S.E. 28-71-2-W.6th.

*Page 24. Dom. Exp't. Farms Report of the Director, year ending March 31, 1912.

The next annual report mentions that seeds sent Mr. Webb early in March reached him on June 6—too late for sowing that year—and the thermometers that had been forwarded were somewhere on the Edson Trail, a wet season having made it impossible to get express through. The country was settling fast and Mr. Webb estimated the grain crop at 150,000 bushels. A good safe harvest had commenced on August 20. Wheat averaged 30 bushels and oats 50. He took to Ottawa a very good collection of grains grown by his neighbors and himself.

*Page 20. Dom. Exp't. Farms Report of the Director, year ending March 31, 1913.

A favourable report was sent in for the wet season of 1913 and a brief synopsis was published.

Less encouraging and quite brief was the published report for the rather dry season of 1914.

Leaving Grande Prairie in December, 1914, Mr. Webb intended to take his family back with him the next spring but through a sickness was unable to do so. In February, 1915, he got as far as Edmonton and had to return to Ottawa. His stepson enlisting for military service, he had to sell out as best he could and Mr. Webb went overseas himself. He now lives in Ottawa.

*Page 20. Dom. Exp't. Farms Report of the Director, year ending March 31, 1914.

*Page 18. Dom. Exp't. Farms Report of the Director, for year ending March 31, 1915.

Arriving at Beaver Lodge in October, 1913, to pioneer, the present writer found himself confronted with numerous questions for which adequate answers were not available. Marquis wheat was new. Was it adapted? Would Prelude, Pioneer or Preston be better suited? And so on. Writing Dr. J. H. Grisdale, then Deputy Minister of Agriculture, he offered to make a few simple tests if supplied with the seed. Dr. Grisdale concurred, regretting that he could pay nothing for it as arrangements were in force with Mr.

Webb, who was sending very interesting reports. Information rather than remuneration being the object, the work was readily undertaken gratis and crudely performed on leased land (S.W. 1-72-10-W.6th) with very inadequate equipment. Upon receipt of the year's report Dr. Grisdale wrote saying that Mr. Webb had left the country so he offered \$200.00 to repeat the tests. The offer was somewhat hesitatingly accepted since the newcomer's object in coming to the Peace had been to get away from professional work. However, further information was desired and the money would hire a man to follow the teams.

In 1915 the first ground was broken on the present site (S.E. 1-72-10-W.6th) and the next year the tests were conducted there, an assortment of nursery stock being also planted. This quarter had been purchased by the incumbent in 1913 from his father-in-law, R. C. Lossing, who had filed on the south half of 1 in 1909 as a South African Veteran's Script.

In 1916 the remuneration was doubled and in 1927 it was continued at \$400.00 until in June Dr. Grisdale wrote saying he expected considerable immigration to the Peace after the war and there would be many questions coming up for which answers should be available, hence he proposed to lease twenty acres and pay a part-time salary for supervision and conduct of the work. A much longer hesitation ensued this time because it was realized that once embarked on that basis the incumbent would be in honour bound to give it his first attention and ally himself permanently therewith. From boyhood his one fixed ambition has been to farm in the regular way and during ten years of journalistic career this ambition had been nursed. But everyone consulted strongly urged acceptance of the proposition and finally an affirmative answer was given. An additional twenty-acres of land flanking S.E. 1-72-10 was purchased from Mr. Lossing, part being at once broken and the remainder in 1918. Mr. P. Flint of Beaver Lodge, was engaged as an unclassified assistant, having charge of the horticultural work but helping between times to grub willows; to pound out grain plots with a club and to stage displays at the local fairs. He continued until voluntarily retiring in 1930.

From that small informal beginning the work has, with the support of the present Director, Dr. E. S. Archibald, expanded until it now occupies the whole time of a Superintendent and a classified assistant, (E. C. Stacey), plus a dozen other employees in summer. It comprehends an intensive study on eighty acres of land on the south half of section 1, the remainder of which half was acquired by the Superintendent in 1920, making, with his homestead (S.E. 6-72-9), three quarters in the one proprietorship. Being conducted, however, on private property the institution still has nominally a sub-station rank. For the same reason work with live stock and with crop rotations has been lightly featured, the former quartered chiefly in portable housing, the Department not being justified in instituting such projects on an adequate scale on land it does not own. Experimental work with bacon swine, is, however, being resumed in 1934.

From an early day forage crops were stressed, it being realized that these were not only called for in the interest of live-stock husbandry but were necessary as a means of maintaining soil productivity. The daring venture with alfalfa has been undeniably justified by results.

A greenhouse was erected in 1933 and in the capable hands of J. H. Crossley, B.S.A., the horticultural work has grown apace.

Bees have been kept continuously since 1922.

Five illustration stations are supervised through Beaver Lodge, viz., Baldonnel, B.C., Pouce Coupe, B.C., Fairview, Alta., Dreau, Alta., and High Prairie, Alta. Mr. L. M. Godfrey, B.S.A., has lately been handling the detail of this supervision.

In addition the Sub-station through co-operative experiments and correspondence with persons contacted by the Superintendent in 1930 maintains touch with agriculture and horticulture throughout the whole Mackenzie Basin, an area of 682,000 square miles. More especially it serves the watersheds of the Peace, the Athabasca and part of the North Saskatchewan rivers, but through reports, press articles and addresses the institution is more or less known throughout Western Canada.

Repeated efforts have been made to have the work established on land owned by the government. In 1922 the writer was instructed to report upon suitable locations within two miles of steel. First choice, according to the conditions prescribed, was the school section between Grande Prairie and Clairmont, along with the privately owned section to the south. A cut in the estimates precluded action at that time nor has it ever been taken since, though the said school section and another one west of Grande Prairie were reserved from sale by the Provincial government upon its taking over the natural resources. Publicly owned premises at some point or other are admittedly essential to the most advantageous continuance and expansion of the experimental work.

DAIRYING

Where settlers go the family cow goes also, supplying milk, cream and dairy butter. When a marketable surplus accumulates the usual move is to organize a creamery. The first creamery in the Peace River region was built at Grande Prairie by the Edmonton City Dairy Co., which began operations in 1917, continued for seven years and sold it out to Burns & Co., who ran it from 1924 to 1928. The following table of annual output, supplied by C. P. Marker, with consent of the two companies concerned, tells an eloquent story of declining patronage by a district which in the years of good crops and prices put all its faith in grain:

Year	No. of lbs.
1917	20,185
1918	30,456
1919	63,612
1920	40,672
1921	70,000
1922	92,514
1923	49,036
1924	70,332
1925	80,858
1926	87,906
1927	49,836
1928	23,744
	Closed

In 1934 a creamery was again established in Grande Prairie by C. W. Stilling who later disposed of his interests to the Edmonton City Dairy, but continued as manager until the close of the season.

Until the creamery was closed in autumn the make was approximately one hundred and twenty thousand pounds.

The first and only co-operative creamery in the North was established in the Scandinavian community of Valhalla, whose first settlers arrived there over the Athabasca Trail in the spring of 1913 following a scouting trip in the autumn of 1912 by Rev. H. N. Ronning, Lutheran minister, accompanied by his wife and brother-in-law, Olaf Horte. They were looking for a place where there would be room for a considerable Norwegian settlement.

The settlers came prepared to go in for grain farming and the first efforts were encouraging, for the 1915 wheat crop was heavy and graded well. Subsequent experience showed that grain production in the vicinity of Valhalla Centre was hazardous in the pioneer stage and during was taken up. During 1918 the settlers took turns hauling their cream to Grande Prairie. The next year the cream was graded, tested and paid for at a local receiving station, but neither plan was very satisfactory owing to slow transport on poor roads. It was before the day of highways and trucks in the pioneer fringe of the North.

Co-operation had strong advocacy in Valhalla and during the fall and winter of 1918 several meetings were held to discuss the possibility of organizing and operating a co-operative creamery. As a result the Valhalla Co-operative Creamery Association was organized in the spring of 1919, with head office at Valhalla Centre. Not, however, until the spring of 1920 was the creamery built and then only after the support of neighbouring settlements such as Beaver Lodge, Happy Valley, La Glace, Northfield and Niobe had been enlisted.

Stubborn difficulties were encountered but the Viking spirit prevailed. In the first place capital was scarce. This was partly overcome by the purchase of second-hand machinery. When in 1918 the late P. A. Neustad was visiting his old-time North-Dakota friend and neighbour, J. E. Kringen, president of the Viking Co-operative Creamery, he learned that its old machinery had just been displaced and could be bought on time. It was shipped up to Valhalla in 1919.

Still there was a shortage of cash. Much of the two thousand dollars worth of share sold was paid in work and material. For instance, the Ronning-Horte mill sawed the lumber at cost and took stock for most of this, it is said. President Neustad, Secretary-treasurer O. M. Melsness and others went to several banks trying to arrange a loan with which to complete the building and pay for the butterfat, realizing they would have to dispense cash for cream in order to compete with the Grande Prairie Creamery. Mr. Evans, Manager of the old Merchants' Bank at Grande Prairie, advanced \$1,500.00 with which to complete building and installation and promised an additional line of credit for operating. However, when the secretary-treasurer went to arrange for this in order to buy cream it was refused and warning given that the \$1,500.00 would be carried for but a limited period. Undaunted, Mr. Melsness drove home that evening and called a meeting of the directors, late that night, Roy M. Knight, a neighbour who had some money, accompanied the executive to Grande Prairie the following day and before night they had funds in the Canadian Bank of Commerce to take care of the cream coupons.

Another financial bar was successfully hurdled in the fall of 1920 or early in 1921 when the executive approached their personal friend, Ed. Thompson, of Kingman, and of the Kleskun Ranch, Sexsmith, Alta. Mr. Thompson agreed to advance the required \$6,500.00 but to obtain it the seven directors had to pledge their own resources as a guarantee. They were P. A. Neustad (President), Olaf Horte (Vice-President), O. M. Melsness (Secretary-treasurer), Simon Hanson, C. A. Larson, Hans Hanson and Julius Halverson. Their names remained on the note until Mr. Thompson's estate was wound up several years later when the Board went to Roy Knight, who is still carrying the account against the creamery though it is considerably reduced by now.

The creamery account was carried by the Merchants' Bank and afterwards by the Bank of Montreal until the Hythe branch turned it down a couple of years ago. The directors then arranged for a small line of credit with the Royal Bank at Sexsmith until at the end of 1932 it, also,

(Continued on page twelve)

History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(continued from page eleven)
refused to advance money for the payment of cream, though it is understood to have advanced small amounts for fuel, ice, etc.

At one time advances by the Merchants Bank in Sexsmith exceeded \$7,000.00, somewhat straining the creamery's credit. Mr. Melsness was sent to interview Premier Greenfield for Provincial aid. This he refused but he gave a letter to the Provincial Manager of the Merchants Bank, who promised to see the association through—a promise kept as long as the Merchants Bank remained in business.

Quite a shock was sustained in 1922 when \$1,580.00 worth of butter was burned at Sexsmith. The station agent had telephoned that he had a car ready on which to load butter. When it arrived the agent found on examination that some oil and grease had been spilled in the car, and for fear of tainting refused to permit the butter to be loaded in it. The teamsters obtained permission to store the butter in an old building in town. The following night it burned. The C.P.R., which then operated the railroad, repudiated a claim for damages and the creamery felt unable to fight the railroad company. Fortunately, a good season the next year enabled it to make up the loss.

The first cream was taken on July 2, 1920. During that season the make of butter was 27,614 pounds. The peak of production was reached in 1921 when the output was 171,322 pounds. Up to the end of 1932 it had manufactured 1,353,288 pounds of butter, having paid out \$306,892.40 for butter fat, \$41,377.23 for wages, \$6,814.38 for wood and ice, \$14,536.77 for cream stations and hauling, making a total of \$369,620.78. The 1933 business was not so good, audited statement showing a make of 88,052 pounds with \$8,536.00 paid out for butter fat, \$1,934.92 for salary, \$244.87 for wood and ice and \$344.93 for cream stations. This would bring the grand totals up to 1,441,340 pounds of butter with disbursements of \$315,429.00 for butter fat, \$43,312.15 for wages, \$7,059.25 for wood and ice and \$14,881.70 for cream stations and hauling, making a grand aggregate of \$380,682.10 put into circulation in the Valhalla and surrounding districts by this small plant. It has been the making of the Valhalla settlement and has been of much advantage to other districts as well. As it stood in 1933 the plant was valued at \$9,200.00 and is quite complete in its equipment. While the greater part of the butter made is shipped to Edmonton in solids (56-pound boxes) the prints have been well received by the Northern trade.

The articles of association and incorporation were drawn up by the first secretary-treasurer with the assistance of a committee from the board of directors. The only change made was in the date of the annual meeting.

Buttermakers.—J. Skaltsky, of the Viking Co-operative Creamery installed the machinery in 1920 and made the first butter, remaining for about a month. Succeeding him were: Roy Kellar, who came to Valhalla from the Viking Creamery.

A. Frederickson, who came from the Grande Prairie Creamery, staying but a few months.

Joe Ormson, who came from the Ryley Creamery, being the buttermaker at the time the Valhalla Creamery won the Dominion award in interprovincial competition.

Lyman Borem, who had been an understudy of Ormson.

Harry Horte, who had worked under both Kellar and Ormson, later entering the Provincial Service under C. P. Marker, and

the present maker, J. B. Patterson, who came from the Woodland Dairy in the autumn of 1933.

Secretaries.—Mr. Melsness served as secretary from the time the creamery commenced operation until March 1, 1925, when he was succeeded by L. A. Flom, who in turn was succeeded in March, 1932, by D. O. Hanson, serving at present (April, 1934).

When several of the original directors had been replaced and wished to be released from the guarantee on the \$6,500.00 note a special meeting was called and thirty or more shareholders signed a guarantee to the bank to help out.

Over and above the direct pecuniary return the Valhalla Creamery has been an example and stimulus of the co-operative spirit. It has exemplified the resourcefulness of a people who triumph over difficulties. The spirit of P. A. Nepstad lives in Valhalla.

Cream has been shipped at times from the Grande Prairie district to the Westlock and High Prairie creameries and even to the Pouce Coupe Creamery, but production at the two creameries actually making butter in the district has been substantial together with the dairy butter, milk, cream, ice cream and cheese locally consumed represents a considerable contribution to the welfare of the region.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES GRANDE PRAIRIE

The first agricultural society was the Grande Prairie, organized in 1911, and a fair was held annually down to and including 1931. Since then the society has worked in conjunction with the Provincial Department of Agriculture in sponsoring field days.

The "moving spirits" in organization were W. H. Smith, W. A. Ray, Alphaeus Patterson, Robert Cochrane, J. O. Patterson, and James McFarlane, with Jack Axon as secretary. The first fair was held where the town now stands and later upon the present fair grounds, on land set aside by the Dominion Government for this purpose. When these notes were drafted G. A. James was the president and P. J. Tooley the secretary-treasurer.

At the annual meeting this year, Geo. W. Balmer was elected president, L. C. Porteous, vice-president, and P. J. Tooley secretary-treasurer. The following were named as directors: W. L. Caldwell, G. A. James, T. W. H. Paul, J. E. Lewis, P. U. Clubine, W. Perkins, J. E. Thomson, W. J. Thomson, Fred Cooke, Harley Conrad, F. M. Sanger, Davies, Dr. Akin, Jean Lozeron, E. J. Sterling, J. H. Murray, Mrs. W. L. Caldwell, Mrs. G. A. James, Mrs. P. U. Clubine, Mrs. H. Conrad, Mrs. W. J. Thomson.

Among the charter members were: G. M. Smith, Walter MacFarlane, Albert R. Smith, S. H. McCausland, J. H. Moore, Alex. Craig, John Watson, W. Johnson, Jas. MacFarlane, Lorne Smith, Arthur M. Smith, A. Sherk and Sons, G. W. Jebb, W. Craig, Alex. Monkman, Ross Beatty, F. G. Webber, Robert Nevins, F. B. Smith, J. A. Dirkes, A. E. W. Roberts, L. E. Gaudin, Fred Evans, Rev. C. F. Hopkins, Alex. B. Macdonald, H. C. Cooper, J. Sutherland, W. Eaton.

The society was very active, holding each year until 1931 an excellent fair and from 1916 to 1932 a seed fair. For many years a largely attended annual banquet was an autumn community feature.

In 1919 on request of the Beaver Lodge neighbourhood, which wished to be legally free to organize a society of its own when the time should be ripe, the parent society was re-organized as the Grande Prairie Agricultural Society.

A. M. Smith was secretary in

1913 and Herman Trelle in 1914. The late H. C. Cooper did good work as secretary for several years.

Until removing in 1914, W. H. Watts was secretary for some time and he with the President, Ross Beatty, Herman Trelle and others kindly supplied these data.

The minutes were destroyed by fire in 1919.

The Beaver Lodge and Lake Saskatoon Agricultural Society, Lake Saskatoon, Alberta.

Officials for 1914 were: President, R. G. MacLean; 1st Vice-President, G. M. Smith; 2nd Vice-President, Rede Stone; 3rd Vice-President, Selby McAusland.

Directors—Rev. Canon Smith, Wm. Johnson, Ross Beatty, W. G. McFarlane, Jas. Lowe, R. Kranz, E. H. Fulton, A. Sherk, P. Flint, Chas. McNaught, Lorne Smith, H. Cooper, C. W. Richardson, G. Stoll, Alex. Craig.

Honorary Directors: John Sutherland, W. D. Albright.

Grounds Committee: G. M. Smith, Ross Beatty, Lorne Smith, R. G. MacLean, Wm. Johnson, H. Cooper.

Secretary-Treasurer: Herman W. Trelle.

PEACE RIVER CO-OPERATIVE SEED GROWERS' LIMITED

In 1926 a Seed Board was organized, largely through the initiative of A. R. Judson, then district agriculturist, to bring buyers and sellers of seed together, thus promoting the marketing of the good grain and other seed being produced in the Grande Prairie district. It received \$100.00 from each of the organized municipalities.

To take over and extend its work the Peace River Co-operative Seed Growers' Limited was formed November 23, 1928, with forty-five members. The first directors were Robert Cochrane, P. U. Clubine, W. E. Grearson, H. W. Allen, M. H. Anderson. Mr. Cochrane was the first president and has continued to be president and chairman of the board of directors. Mr. A. R. Judson was the first secretary and D. W. Pratt the first treasurer.

The company was formed with the object of cleaning and marketing registered grain in a co-operative way.

A portable cleaning machine was brought into the district in 1929. This machine was rebuilt and equipped with an up-to-date Monitor cleaning machine in spring of 1932. This was done with the co-operation of the Alberta Department of Agriculture and the Dominion Department of Agriculture who helped finance the cost of this machine. It was then taken over by the Seed Growers and operated by them. Since the machine was taken over by the seed growers it has cleaned more than 100,000 bushels of seed grain.

The Peace River Co-operative Seed Growers Ltd., have sponsored senior and junior standing field-crop competitions in the district and have held an annual seed fair each year since 1930.

In the spring of 1931 twenty-five cars of seed grain were marketed through the association. In 1932 the association operated four cleaning machines, cleaning approximately 200,000 bushels of seed oats for shipment to the Saskatchewan relief commission. They were chiefly responsible for securing an order for one million bushels of seed oats to be shipped from the Peace River district to the Saskatchewan Relief Commission in spring of 1932.

In the spring of 1933 an order was received by the association for a car of seed wheat to be shipped to the Newfoundland government. 2,300 sacks of seed oats were also shipped to the British Columbia government and five car loads of seed wheat and oats shipped to the Alberta Department of Agriculture for use of seed clubs.

In the spring of 1934 a little

(continued on page thirteen)



Mr and Mrs. Amos Sherk

As one follows the power line west from Wembley, on what is known as "the lower road," one comes to what at first glance appears a settlement or small hamlet.

Then a large sign over a gate reveals the name, "Broadview Farms, Amos Sherk & Sons," and one instinctively knows that a most cordial welcome will be extended at either of the three residences grouped on both sides of the road.

While the district, about is, and has been for thirty years, known as Lower Beaver Lodge, the cluster of fine buildings surrounding the three residences could well have been named "the Northern Sherkston" for it is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Sherk and their two sons Gordon and Marley.

Away back east in Welland county, Ontario, there has been for innumerable years a settlement known as Sherkston and in it dwelt in peace and happiness the forbears of both Mr. and Mrs. Amos Sherk.

Amos Sherk's parents were Jacob and Catherine Michael Sherk, both deceased. One brother and two sisters still reside at or near the old home.

Mrs. Amos Sherk's maiden name was Candace Ann Sherk, she being a daughter of Peter and Drusilla Buckner Sherk, both deceased. One brother and two sisters reside at her old home.

Amos and Candace Sherk were wed fifty-five years ago last September 16th, at Sherkston, Ontario, which is only about twelve miles from Buffalo, N.Y.

Seven children came to bless the union. Twin sisters, Nellie and Nina died in their infancy. Three daughters living are Mrs. Alma Bils, at Chicago; Mrs. Maude Truax, at North Vancouver and Mrs. Lulu (C.E.) Edgerton of Huallen. Two sons Gordon Grant and Marley Edson are both married and living at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Sherk and family left their Ontario home in company with the group which later were widely known as "The Bull Outfit," whose trail experiences are told by Elias A. Smith in another section of this issue.

They arrived at the place they have since made home in July of 1909 and have made an outstanding success of their Peace River farming venture. Known far and wide as growers of grains of high quality, raised from pure certified seeds, their products have a ready market.

In the production of livestock Amos Sherk & Sons have won for themselves an enviable rep-

utation, both with horses, cattle and swine. A visit to "Broadview Farms" will go far to convince one that farming in the Peace River can be successful.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Cranston

Donald C. Cranston, a native son of Galt, Ontario, was one of the original "Bull Outfit" which came in over the long trail in the spring of 1909. While he only farmed in the Beaver Lodge district for eight years, before removing to Toronto, Mr. Cranston's heart will always remain in the Peace River.

In March of 1914 Mr. Cranston and Elizabeth B. Johnson, daughter of the late Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Johnson, were the first white couple to be married by Rev. Chas. Hopkins at Beaver Lodge.

Mrs. Cranston was the second teacher to be employed at the Beaver Lodge school, where she taught for two terms.

The townsite of Beaver Lodge is located on land formerly belonging to Don Cranston.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Allen

William Allen was born at Stella, Ontario, on May 20th, 1853, one of a family of two boys and five girls.

His parents were Edward and Mary Kerr Allen of Irish ancestry but for many years well known farmers of Central Ontario.

All five sisters still survive, his brother having passed away in 1919.

On March 10th, 1886 Miss Mary Wright of Stella, became Mrs. William Allen and the union has been blessed with one son, Hugh Wright Allen.

Mrs. Allen was a daughter of George and Sarah Polley Wright who hailed from Scotland but had farmed in the Stella district for many years. Mrs. Allen has one brother in Brantford, Ont., another in Valley City, N.D., and one sister in Ottawa, Ont.

Leaving her old home in Stella in January of 1911, in company with their son and his bride, they made their way to the Lower Beaver Lodge district where they settled on land and built their new home.

Mr. Allen enjoyed a life of activity, principally in the furthering of community interests, until a short time before his death on November 15th, 1932.

Mrs. Allen makes her home with her son and daughter-in-law.

History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(continued from page twelve) over 125,000 bushels of seed oats were shipped, mostly to Saskatchewan, though ten thousand of them went to the B. C. Block to fill seed-relief orders, ten or twelve thousand bushels to the Alberta government and 5,000 to Manitoba.

The purchase of another seed cleaner is contemplated.

The association has had a strong directorate and is in a splendid financial condition. The present board of directors are Robert Cochran, president, P. U. Clubine, treasurer, and Fred Cooke, M. H. Anderson and Gordon Sherk, directors. W. J. Thomson, until recently district agriculturist, acts as secretary and manager, now working on a commission basis.

Hawkinson is a brother-in-law of Martin Anderson. He with Mike Harland had come in with the Lampson party sponsored by the Kent Realty Company which had a concession to colonize the Grizzly Bear Prairie. Hawkinson worked three years for Mead and Grant and then started on his own on the north side of Lake Saskatoon. Harland later located beside him on what is now the John "Scotty" Smith place. So far as Mr. Grant remembers these were the only two members of that personally conducted party who remained in the country. Mr. Poole recalls that McBride was another. He eventually proved up a place northwest of Hythe.

Pat Murphy, who came in with Grant in 1908, was met by the author in 1930 along the Great Slave river, where he was looking after the half-way stable for Ryan Bros.

Interesting old-timers were Billy Lowe and Walter Eaton. Lowe used to be an old R.N.W. M.P. down north who got a job with Revillon Freres at Lake Saskatoon as their first manager there after they took over the business of Bredin and Cornwall. Lowe took up a homestead south of the Revillon buildings. He never had much to say and when he did talk would begin audibly but let his voice die off. He appears never to have married. He disappeared mysteriously and his brother came and took his homestead.

Walter Eaton was married to an Indian woman and assisted Lowe in the Revillon post. He afterwards went overseas and was killed.

Harry Meikle came into the country with George McLeod, who was returning officer in 1905. He went back out and came in with his brother, Bert Meikle, in the fall of 1906.

brought in a little bunch of horses and built a cabin on Buffalo Lake, where he lived all winter, going out to Edmonton in the spring. Harry lived with him until they disagreed, when he left and stayed with Monkman until the latter went out. Bert came back from Edmonton and changed his location to a mile south of Lake Saskatoon, where he squatted and afterwards homesteaded on land now owned by Calhoun. There he did a little farming. Harry also homesteaded adjoining Bert. Harry claimed to be Scotch and Bert English. The explanation was that their mother was Scotch and their father English. Harry, the eldest, was born in Scotland but Bert in England. Bert later sold his homestead and worked at Banff with pack outfits and in the North. Harry lives in the old Hudson's Bay property west of Lake Saskatoon.

The Gladu family, notably Yourba and Johnny Gladu, figure frequently in the early records and the late Tom Sinclair is well remembered by the very early old timers, many of whom were entertained by him at his home east of Bear Lake. It seems he had known Ross Bent-

ty's father very well over in the Churchill country. Monkman recites an interesting incident in which Sinclair figured incidentally. While staying at Monkman's he elected to sleep on a porch saying that if he slept indoors he would get a cold and another cold when he changed again. He used to hang his watch up at a certain place on the porch. One morning it was missing and he accused Monkman of hiding it on him. What happened was that a Beaver boy had stolen it. That evening at the Beaver Lodge crossing some twelve to fifteen miles west he was showing the watch to other Indians. On being questioned where he got it his stories did not hang together. So they told him to return the watch. He made a quick run back, hung the watch on the porch without even disturbing the dogs and returned to the crossing by morning. Not until the next year did Sinclair learn the facts. We agree with Mr. Monkman that if the white men today were equally zealous in seeing that any of their number redressed a wrong there would be no need for police or judges. Against certain of the aboriginal customs the white man's vaunted civilization cuts a sorry figure. In this connection the modern reader may be reminded that until the white man came in any utensil was safe in a cache anywhere from Mackenzie to Edmonton. The Indian learned from the white man to thief because he found, as Col. Cornwall puts it, that stealing was the easiest way of getting things.

Search of the early records frequently uncovers the name of Dave Sexsmith. According to letters dated March 12, 1921, and November 30, 1925, received from Mr. Sexsmith from Kelowna, B.C., where he was then living, he had been born in Lennox County, Ontario, and came west to Manitoba in 1890. He became interested in the North Country by talking to Tom Secord, in Manitoba, with whom he worked one winter. This was a brother of R. Secord of Edmonton. He had done some freighting between Edmonton and "the Landing," and told great tales of the quantities of fur coming down from the North. Fired by these stories and with prospecting also in view Sexsmith headed for the Grande Prairie with a man named Jacobs. Arriving at Spirit River about mid-July, 1898, (the year of the Klondike rush though Sexsmith was not headed for the Klondike) and on the advice of the late Harrison Young, of Edmonton, who in his earlier days had been on Grande Prairie in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Co., he sought to take a wagon in over the old pack trail which led south-east of Spirit River to past Kakut Lake, and then south, striking the prairie at its east end. At Spirit River they were told that if they started the next day and worked the rest of their lives they would not get through with a wagon. However, after staying at Spirit River a few days they set out and on the night of the fifth day camped at Kleskun Creek about where the Kleskun ranch buildings were afterwards erected. Monkman recalls seeing the barked trees, which they had passed. They spent the first winter on the Wapiti just above the Red Willow and a Frenchman whose name is forgotten stayed with them. Quite a few Klondikers stranded that winter and by spring there were two men fewer. He remained on the Prairie from 1898 to 1901, when he drifted back to Edmonton, working at different jobs until he returned in 1912. What grain he raised during the next five years was on Sections 1 and 12-73-6-W.6th. He kept a good stopping place and Sexsmith was named after him.

Perhaps mention might here be introduced of Ross Beatty, who with Oma Stewart and the late "Silvertip" Campbell, started for the Peace in 1896, Campbell turning back from Mirror Landing. Stewart and Beatty went out in the ensuing winter, bringing in a small mill for Allie Brick, remaining around Peace River until 1910, when he came to Grande Prairie to settle, filling a homestead on N.W. 24-71-

8 and a South African Script on S.W. 25 and S.E. 26. In 1908 Campbell returned to look the country over, reaching Pouce Coupe. In 1910 he returned again filling on a half section known as the Purves place immediately southwest of Wembley. He had always been a trader and was nicknamed from his long flowing white beard.

Beaver Lodge Valley Theatre of First Considerable Settlement

Although a trickle of traders, trappers, ranchers and croppers had scattered sporadically over the Grande Prairie and although a mixed-blood population seems to have localized at an early date around Flying Shot, the first considerable number of land-seekers established themselves along the Beaver Lodge river, in a valley whose fame had been sung abroad and which still captivates all who view its mountain-fringed basin from the rolling foothills of Saskatoon Mountain or from the nearer ridge on which the Sub-Station is situated. If we except Henry Patterson, who first squatted by a spring along the lower trail, but now lives out towards Goodfare, the Valley's first permanent settler was Wm. N. Bernard, Minnesota-born and Dakota-raised but recently living in Portland, Oregon. After a rapid scouting trip in the summer of 1907 up as far as the Natinaw Hill (the vantage point on the old Spirit River trail overlooking the Grande Prairie district), he was impressed with the country, and, as he remembers his experiences, hurried back to Edmonton, bought a team and wagon, returned to the Grande Prairie district that same autumn and after looking the lake district over squatted along the Beaver Lodge on N.E. 13, 71-10-W.6th but after the survey in 1909 moved his buildings over to S.E. 24-71-10. After putting up his buildings that autumn he returned to Portland, Oregon, to which he subsequently made three other trips but has since 1914 lived steadily at Beaver Lodge. His first breaking was done for him by Henry Patterson in 1908, five acres on each of the two places, S.E. 24-71-10 and N.W. 18-71-9. His first crop was seeded in 1909 with oats purchased from Bill Smith, at \$1.50 per bushel. The oats were sown by hand and dragged in with brush.

The natives told Bernard that before he came in there had been a big fire coming from Pouce Coupe and sweeping down to the Smoky, burning up the sod. Even then there was much less clear prairie than now. In 1908 he himself set a fire that burned for two or three days. Wm. Grant recalls a great fire in August, 1906, but knows nothing of the earlier one.

Jack Harding, a Texan rancher, who is said to have kept a stopping place near Eggle's, on the Athabasca trail, squatted near Bernard in 1908 but moved over to Twin Lakes at Clairmont and later to Pouce Coupe. He brought in some fifteen cattle, including a bull which had nearly capsized the ferry at Peace River.

The next permanent settlers in the neighborhood were the Stones and O. H. Johnson. After a reconnoitering trip in the autumn of 1907, the late Rede and Robert Stone (cousins) brought their families up from Sawridge, at the east end of Lesser Slave Lake, in the spring of 1908, accompanied by the late O. H. Johnson, who after spending a summer in the district brought his family in the spring of 1909 accompanied by his son-in-law, C. O. Pool. During the summer Mr. Johnson raised quite a crop of turnips and in the fall gave turnips to the Indians, earning the sobriquet "Rutabaga" Johnson. Another Johnson in the neighborhood at a later date was called "Armstrong" John-

son because he cut hay with a scythe.

Rede Stone built in a picturesque spruce-backed site along the Beaver Lodge river on what proved to be the fractional part of N.E. 33-71-10-W.6th. The camp had been pitched there and both Rede Stone and Johnson (continued on page fourteen)

Freeman James Dodge

Freeman James Dodge was born in Woodstock, Ontario, one of a family of two boys and one girl to bless the union of Adam and Sarah Carr Dodge. His father passed on in December, 1923, but his mother resides with a brother E. L. Dodge at Bluesky, Alta.

Before starting out on the great adventure to the Peace

River in 1901, Mr. Dodge served with distinction as a clerk with Ross Brothers, traders and wholesalers in Edmonton.

On April 9th, 1901, he started for the north with a string of packhorses, crossed the Big Smoky River on May 24th and a few days later unloaded his belongings at the old trading post of Spirit River.

That his subsequent life has been filled with activities in the farming, ranching and merchandising business can well be gathered in his own phrasing:

"This covers a vast and mighty field of thirty-two years of life in the last great west. In going back over the period of time I might say that previous to 1910 those years carries the most cherished memories of our lives when white men were few and far between, and the Indian was Lord of all he surveyed."

Last summer he was unanimously chosen as president of the Peace River Federal Constituency Liberal Association. Many old timers recall the incident of "Jimmy" Dodge making a winter walk to Edmonton to be present at the opening of the first Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Mr. Dodge married Edith McKinnon, a Red Deer girl, in April 1922, and they have a fine upstanding son, James Harper Dodge to carry on the work so well founded by his father. Mr. Dodge is an active member of the Presbyterian faith and the Masonic order.



GRANDE PRAIRIE BRAND

Good Harness

And what it means:

Old Timers will recall many a hard "pull" on their trips over the Edson Trail. Bottomless mud holes tested the strength of more than one set of harness. Harness had to be good to stand the gaff of that arduous trip.

Old Timers know good harness when they see it—that is why many of them procure all their harness and harness repairs from us.

Our Harness and Repairs Stand The Gaff



Grande Prairie Saddlery

A. A. NELSON, Proprietor

History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(continued from page thirteen)

Johnson then went up the river but finding his choice frosty selected another location on a hill now called "Stoney Point," just northwest of the present town of Beaver Lodge. He had had enough experience of dry countries and was bound to have water.

Robert Stone settled down the river from Red on S.W. 35-71-10 close beside his house was an old dug-out once occupied by Dave Sexsmith, who was the first man to bring a wheeled vehicle into the Grande Prairie district and the man after whom Sexsmith was named. This dug-out was used by Robt. Stone as a cellar. It was possibly same one once occupied by Jim Brooks, Tom Lillack and Bob Potts, all interesting characters of the early days and all but Lillack still living so far as the writer is aware. Mention of early days takes us back to the "Scurvy Camp" of 1898-99, where the late Geo. McLeod, ex-sheriff of Peace River and Jim Brooks held rendezvous near the old crossing since called "the Lower Crossing."

According to an interview obtained from Mr. McLeod in 1922, he and Brooks, with a partner each, had come up in the van of the Klondike rush and decided to prospect along the headwaters of the Smoky. Whipsawing lumber they made themselves a good camp on the Beaver Lodge and during the winter were surprised to find their trap lines cut by trails. Following these up they would find two or three Klondikers huddled in a little log shack around a sheet-iron stove and all attacked by scurvy. One group after another was rounded up until a dozen were gathered in. One died and another should have but was too stubborn. He was so obstinate that if they made a little squirrel soup and offered it to him he wouldn't take it but if they set it beside him when asleep he would wake up and do so. For weeks he never had a movement of the bowels, yet when finally the party was taken out where vegetables were available all recovered and McLeod afterwards his stubborn patient on the trap line apparently well as ever.

Dave Sexsmith was a member of the party and recalls the experience with horror.

One would like to tell more of the early days, for instance of how Bill and Stewart English, Bob Potts et al wintered in 1898-99 across the Wapiti south of where Grande Prairie now stands, living after New Year's on horse meat then on muskrats and finally on fish, but this is not agriculture and the Editor indulgence has limits.

To return to agricultural settlement on the Beaver. In the Stones brought garden seeds from Edmonton. Seed oats were purchased by them from English and Calkin at Spirit River, on the way in. Marquis wheat was later brought in from Edmonton out froze. Fall wheat was then tried, says George Stone but mostly winterkilled. On their comparatively level land little wheat was grown by them for years. It did better on higher land in the neighborhood of the Stone family the only survivors in the district are Red's stepson, George, and his wife, who was Robert Stone's daughter Inez. One of Red's stepsons had died at Tom Shickler's on arrival on the prairie. Percy and Red Jr., followed, then the elders. But they and the Johnson family filled a large place and left an honored name in the country. The Johnson family of 1909 had included Mr and Mrs. C. O. Pool and their six-months child Ralph; Arnold Johnson, wife and two eldest children, Percy and Muriel;

Ruth and Anna Johnson, afterwards Mrs. Ralph and Harry Carrell, respectively; Johnny and Pauline Johnson. Accompanying the party was Henry Roper. Mr. O. H. Johnson died in the Edmonton hospital in 1916 following an operation.

On August 28, 1907, W. G. (Billy) Johnson, Dick Brinkman, Wm. McLachlan and Bob Steele arrived at Dunvegan. That fall they cut out the new road from Spirit River south to what was then known as the Beaver Dams, north of where Sexsmith now is. Johnson, Jim Dodge and Bob Steele came to the Beaver Lodge in 1908, erecting on the S.E. of 18 the four walls of a house intended for Jimmie Dodge, though he never came back to occupy it. Immediately across the Beaver Lodge from where Wm. McNeil's house now stands they put up the walls of a house for Steele. Johnson got out a set of logs down the river but never laid them up. Johnson and Steele both squatted along the river, but Johnson eventually homesteaded in 1909 on N.E. 35-71-10, the land on a corner of which the old Beaver Lodge log school (the first public school building on the prairie if not in the Peace) was built. Steele chose a nice open quarter along the river below Robt Stone's, on the area where Johnson had first squatted.

Other early squatters in the neighborhood were a man named McBride, Anton Dahl and his two sons (Ben and Elmer), Ivan Abricosovich, locally called "Abricosy," a Russian, and Harry Raynes, an Englishman. Then there were the late Ed. Carlson, a Swede, and S. M. "Jim" Bauman, originally hailing from Waterloo Co., Ont. East of Camp Creek each of these two homesteaded a quarter with a spring. Each was supposed to command a half interest in 35 cents and Carlson claimed it was really his capital. Bauman was the first man in the district to get his quarter all broken.

For a long time all the prairie west of Beaver Lodge was locally called "the Red Willow district." In it the first white settlers seem to have been Billy and Adam Dorin and Jim Cory, who came, Bernard says, in 1908. The Dorin's built a house on the Grigg place but after the survey let that go and went up on the hill. Adam took the place where Billy Perdue now lives. Billy took the Dimsky place and Cory settled down near the coal mine, where Gaunt homesteaded, but left it after the survey and filed on the present site of Halcourt. The late Bob Shaw settled adjacent to Cory. Henry Roper went over to Halcourt neighborhood about 1909. Sam McNaught and Harry Walker settled there about 1910. Walker was a tinsmith by trade and one of the few South African veterans to prove up the script issued to him.

In 1909 saw the arrival of the famous company of Ontarians called the "Bull Outfit" so called because they left Edmonton with eighteen teams of oxen. The majority, though not all, belonged to one religious group. Their object was to find a place in the West where a considerable block of land could be had on which to locate not only themselves but the South African scripts with which the majority had provided themselves. Adequate areas being hard to find nearer the railroads, attention finally focussed on the Peace and quite definitely upon the Beaver Lodge valley. Secretary and business leader of the enterprise was the late I. E. Gaudin, who with the late C. A. Drake had been engaged in business life in the West, but they and their wives decided to throw in their lot with the company of farmers, young men and others from Ontario. E. A. Smith was elected as the trail

boss. Besides these three men the personnel comprised:

Mrs. Drake (now Mrs. J. W. Wilkie), Mrs. E. A. Smith; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Crabbe, their son-in-law J. M. Miller, with wife and four children (Albert, Fred, Mary and Cliff); Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Lossing and son Clarence; Mr. and Mrs. Amos Sherk, with family (Gordon, Marley, Maud and Lulu), R. Shisler and wife; S. C. McNaught; Sam Sarjeant; Don Cranston; Garnet Truax; Wm. Pierce, George and Victor Flint.

By the way, Flints, Stones and Steele gave the Beaver Lodge neighborhood a "hard" name from the punster's standpoint.

Another coincidence in names was that two unrelated men named Crabbe, hailing from quite different parts, homesteaded side by side. Wm. Crabbe came in with the "Bull Outfit"; John Crabbe drove in a pair of black and white cows and was distinguished as "Cow Crabbe."

Leaving Edmonton on April 20, 1909, with fourteen loaded wagons, a caboose, and three spare wagons the party crossed the Athabasca River at "the Landing" on May 1, after a night of eight below zero, and after stopping along the Little Slave River to cut 108 cords of steamboat wood to pay for transport of the freight up Lesser Slave Lake, and then cutting another hundred cords at Shaw's Point near the head of the lake (this after the oxen with empty wagons had been driven along the rocky north shore making a record trip and beating the steamboat to Shaw's Point), they finally proceeded by way of Peace River Crossing, Dunvegan and Spirit River, completing the 550-mile trip to Beaver Lodge on July 14, having been near three months en route.

"One day at a time" the motto, they had plodded along, tortoise-like, negotiating hills, rivers and muskegs, fighting mosquitoes and flies, rationing food supplies for a while to make them hold out and finally winning through by co-operation.

Land was roughly divided by the wagon-wheel method, the party squatted, put up hay, broke a little land on which to sow the winter wheat threshed out by the boys from Mead and Grant's 1908 stacks, and then sent a party back to Peace River for flour ground at the Catholic Mission at Shaftesbury. Settlement. The district was surveyed by Walter McFarlane late that summer and script entries accordingly made.

Out of the company of 31 persons, eight of the young people (only two of whom belonged to families in the group) have since returned to urban occupations. Five who remained have passed to their long rest, viz., Mr. Drake, Mr. Gaudin, Mrs. and Mr. Crabbe and quite recently Mrs. Lossing. The other eighteen survivors remain in the Beaver Lodge, Hualien and Halcourt neighborhoods, and all but one are engaged at least partly in agricultural pursuits. It is probably one of the best percentage examples on record of successful pioneer settlement. They came with a purpose and most of them stuck to their aim. Ascertain why a settler goes to a new country and you can predict with fair probability whether he will stay. This applies likewise to the Stones, Johnsons, Pooles and other early settlers on the Beaver Lodge.

In the following year the colony was augmented by Mrs. S. C. McNaught and children (Crosby and Mary), Mr. and Mrs. P. Flint and daughter Effie, Mr. and Mrs. John Walton and children (Greene, Arthur, Jim, Jessie, Nellie, Louise and Kathleen), Wesley Pierce, his sister and her husband (Mrs. and Mr. Robinson, respectively), Thos. Kennedy and son Jim, Howard Henry and Mrs. I. E. Gaudin with infant son D'Arcy. Seven of these twenty-three left the district. Mr. Walton died at his home in the Lower Beaver Lodge

(Continued on page fifteen)

The Late I. E. Gaudin Took Prominent Part In Community Affairs

Irving Esdale Gaudin, one of the early pioneers of the Beaver Lodge district, was born on the Bay of Chaleur, New Brunswick, one of a family of five sons and seven daughters. His father was of Jersey Island stock, while his mother was Scotch.

While Irving Gaudin was quite young the family removed to Euphrasia township in Grey County, Ontario, where he received his public school education. Later he attended Collingwood and Brantford collegiate institutes and then the Normal school at Ottawa. After graduation he taught school for a time but having a natural talent for business soon left for



THE LATE I. E. GAUDIN

the west where he embarked on a business career, living in Winnipeg and other Manitoba towns before coming to Edmonton.

Early in the spring of 1909 Mr. Gaudin met the company of Ontarians, later known as "The Bull Outfit" who were heading for the Peace River. Believing a future awaited in the north Mr. and Mrs. Gaudin joined the party and about July 1st arrived at what is now Beaver Lodge.

Mr. Gaudin homesteaded and purchased another quarter with South African Script. Shortly later he opened a store on a small scale in a log building on his homestead opposite the present experimental station. Later a site was obtained on the corner of Mr. Lossing's farm, where a larger building was erected to accommodate the rapidly growing business.

In 1910 Mr. Gaudin opened a business at Clairmont but it did not prove successful. However, it is interesting to record that in later years Mr. Gaudin cleaned up all indebtedness in connection therewith.

With the arrival of the railroad in Beaver Lodge, for which Mr. Gaudin had put in a considerable amount of work and effort, he removed to the new townsite, erected a fine large store premises and put in one of the biggest stocks of merchandise in the whole district.

Failing health, which in November, 1929, culminated in his death, induced the disposal of the business that summer to Lyle's Limited.

Possessed of a personality at once genial and impressive and graced with a rare sense of subtle humor, he made and cemented friendships everywhere. People came to him with their troubles and confidences. He helped solve the difficulties and respected the confidences. In business capacity he was talented to a high degree, only a part of this talent being directed to the objective of personal gain. From the day of his arrival in 1909 every phase

of community effort found in him a liberal supporter, a guiding mind and in many cases a leading initiative.

The late Mr. Gaudin was married twice, his widow being the former Miss Elizabeth Porter of London, Ontario, whom he married in 1906. One son, D'Arcy, was left with his mother to feel the irreparable loss of a loving husband and father.

During the summer of 1934 Mrs. Gaudin and her son took over the business established by her husband from the Lyle estate and are conducting same under the name of Gaudin's Cash Store.

MR. AND MRS. V. C. FLINT

Victor Carman Flint arrived in the Beaver Lodge district on April 20th, 1909, coming over the long Athabasca trail with oxen.

Born in Ravenna, Grey County Ontario, one of a family of five to come to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Flint, Victor spent some little time in Western Canada before coming to the Peace.

In February, 1915, he returned to the East and was married to Miss Frances Sills at Stevensville. Miss Sills was a daughter of Simoen Wilson Sills and Elizabeth Jane Clark Sills of Tweed, Ontario, well known pioneers of that part of Ontario. Miss Sills had previously visited her sister, Mrs. Hugh W. Allen, Lower Beaver Lodge during the summer of 1911.

Prominent in church and community affairs, Mr. and Mrs. Flint and their three daughters enjoy the close friendship of countless residents of the Grande Prairie district.

THE LOSSING FAMILY

Twenty-five years ago last July, Robert Cromwell Lossing, accompanied by his wife and son, Clarence, reached his journey's end at the hill on which is located the experimental farm.

From the home which was quickly erected, one had an awe inspiring panorama of open patches of prairie, small bluffs of poplar and spruce, converging creeks and rivers, with here and there a lake, vast areas of heavy timber covering the foothills which led to the Rocky Mountain Range to the south and west, the snow clad peaks of which form a majestic background.

The land itself was all that Mr. Lossing had hoped for, a rich loam which justified his hopes of bountiful production. With his farming and gardening experience in Norwich, Ontario, to guide him, it was not long until the Lossing farm had become more than a homestead. A goodly portion of the Lossing farm is now a part of the Dominion government experimental station, operated under the skillful direction of his son-in-law, W. D. Albright, who answered the call of the Peace in 1913.

During 1913 difficulty was experienced in obtaining a reliable person to draw the mail from Grande Prairie to Beaver Lodge. Mr. Lossing was induced to take the contract which was continued until the arrival of steel. About this time he also took the Massey-Harris agency for Beaver Lodge, a connection he retained until 1929 when he retired from all activities.

On May 25th, 1879, Mr. Lossing led Miss Mary Ann Avey of Norwich to the altar at Tillsonburg, Ont. They subsequently took up residence in Ottaville, Ontario, where two children were born. Mrs. W. D. Albright, the daughter and Clarence F. Lossing, the son both reside at Beaver Lodge.

Mrs. Lossing entered her long rest on November 23rd of this year, as the result of injuries sustained the evening before, when accidentally struck by an automobile as she was crossing the road to her home.

History of Agriculture Grande Prairie District

(continued from page fourteen) valley in 1933. The other fifteen are still resident, mostly engaged in agriculture. Harry Cranston joined the colony in 1911 but sold out and left after his house was destroyed by a fire.

The law among the early settlers was administered by M. S. White, a tall Swiss with an adventurous career and a great versatility, including the Swiss aptitude for language. He proved up what is now the Bagnall place but is at present living in Toronto. Across the highway from White were the family of Charles McNaught (a brother of Sam) who came in 1911 over the Edson Trail and filled a large place in the social life of the community.

Gradually settlement west of the river thickened up, spreading out to Halcourt, Rio Grande and Elmworth. At an early date there was an "apple belt" in the Beaver Lodge valley, Appleton school district being named after a settler named John Apple.

The writer has not yet in hand precise early records of Rio Grande neighborhood but the first settler in the Elmworth neighborhood was a picturesque character named Richard Courtland Hartington, a handsome young man who responded cheerfully to the appellation "Diamond Dick." He seems to have arrived about 1913 or 1914 and took cattle to feed, homesteading S.W. 17-70-11-W. 6th now occupied by Jim Grant. According to his own tales of exploits in many times and many places, he was figured by one of his neighbors to be 120 years old.

The story is that he once undertook to act as guide to a party with a pack train. Not feeling equipped for the contract he got an old packer to spend a whole night with him showing him how to throw a diamond hitch and to divers other things pertinent to the profession. Thus schooled he blossomed into a guide. He proved up and left in 1917 and at last accounts was farming a small place back in Old Ontario.

About the next settler south of the river was Geo. Dumbuck, who came from the United States and settled opposite Kenny's. Boone Taylor was for a time squatted on a school section but did not file. Followed the McDonald Bros., W. J. Oakford, Geo. Grant, G. S. Moyer and Geo. Beggs in 1915. Grant and Moyer commenced farming in the district. Quite a few flocked in in 1916, among them F. T. Brewer, who became the first post master. The first school was held in Diamond Dick's shack and the first teacher was Miss Small, now Mrs. G. S. Moyer, who was picked by Mr. Brewer from among a number of applicants because of her alert interest in his proposition.

The first settler in what is now the Hythe neighborhood seems to have been Geo. J. ("Kelly") Sunderman, whose father was one of the first homesteaders in a neighborhood south east of Camrose. During the winter of 1909-10 Sunderman came to the Grande Prairie district by way of Athabasca, Grouard and Sturgeon Lake, filling along the Beaver Lodge on S.W. 13-73-11. He was followed by Al Hopkins and Geo. S. Odell, the latter filling on the land which became the townsite of Hythe. After these were Charles Robertson, C. C. Henderson, H. H. Hartley and F. C. ("Happy") Fletcher, these last not necessarily in order of mention.

Fletcher was a general handyman in the British Navy who was through the Boxer rebellion in China and after homesteading in Alberta with his cousins Owen Gulshan and Richard Jones came to the Peace in the summer of 1911, locating a S. A.

script beside Odell. The district was called "Happy Valley" after him.

It would probably be duplicating other accounts in this special edition to enter further into details regarding land occupation but mention should be made of Jack Sutherland who came to the Peace to prospect for mineral and timber in 1905, at which time the Grand Trunk Pacific was supposed to be going through the country. Packing his way in to the mountains by way of Athabasca, Slave and Sturgeon Lakes, his first trip cost eleven hundred dollars. He came to settle on August 15, 1909 and is still living with wife and family on the land first homesteaded, S. W. 18-72-7-W. 6th. Mention must also be made of Henry Roberts and family, who first came up in 1908 and settled south of Bear Lake in 1909, of the Trelle's and Smith's and Thompson's and many other notable families whose stories will appear in due course.

Hermit Lake was named after a tall, eccentric old fellow whose real name was Calkin (no relation to "Doc" Calkin, of Rycroft). Just north of Hermit Lake on a quarter now owned by Fred Roberts he erected a little coop of a place and tried to dig

up some ground with a spade in order to hold the land. As he walked away from Mead and Grant's one day with a bundle over his back and a blanket trailing on the ground Grant re-

William H. Crabbe, Beaver Lodge Pioneer

Another of the old guard of early pioneers slept peacefully away at Beaver Lodge two years ago, in the person of William H. Crabbe, who with his wife came to this district in July, 1909, accompanying his son-in-law, J. M. Miller and family. The late Mr. Crabbe's father was a New Brunswicker, who settled in Ontario, where in the township of Burford, Brant County, deceased was born on May 1st, 1845.

He was a genial, kindly, honorable man with an extraordinary faculty for remembering dates. Until of late he could readily recall the birthdays of all members of the Royal Family as well as of a long list of friends and acquaintances.

Settling at Beaver Lodge he proved up a homestead and South African Veterans' Scrip, but of late years has lived with Mr. Miller, from whose burning house he was rescued in his bedridden condition on the morning of December 27th. His wife predeceased him in 1925. The issue of the marriage was an only daughter, who with her family, remains to mourn his loss.

marked that he looked like a hermit. The nickname stuck and the lake was called after it. The police afterwards deported him.

It is of interest to note that in 1908 Henry Patterson the Dean's, Jim Cory, a man named Clark and Bob Beeman helped Monkman hay. The mower went out as far as Halcourt to Jim Cory's.

Even at the risk of duplicating other records mention must be made of Bob Cochrane, who inaugurated the commercial production of grass seed on the prairie and was at one time thought to be the largest producer of timothy seed in the British Empire. It all began with the seeding in 1912 of ten pounds of timothy seed which had cost ten dollars.

This particular section has been intended to cover agriculture, with settlement touched only incidentally except in the case of the Beaver Lodge district, where a general review of the early influx was commissioned.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Pool Came From Ohio, 1909

Clarence Orian Pool first saw the light of day in New Holland, Ohio. While still quite young, his parents took him along to Holt, Iowa, and then south to

Lawton, Oklahoma.

On gaining his majority he harkened the call for volunteers for the Spanish-American war, serving its duration.

It was in Lawton, Okla., he met and in December, 1907, married Miss Mina R. Johnson daughter of the late Oliver H. and Mrs. Johnson.

Early in 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Pool and infant son Ralph, accompanied Oliver H. Johnson and wife and four children, Arnold H. Johnson, wife and family to the Peace River coming in over the lengthy Grouard trail. Henry Roberts and his two sons, Fred and George (now deceased) were also trail companions.

Settling on land adjoining the townsite of Beaver Lodge Mr. Pool has devoted his time and efforts to increased production.

Always one to take an active part in community affairs, we find him a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, Live Stock Pool and Poultry Pool, director of the Valhalla Creamery, member of the board of managers of the Grande Prairie Municipal hospital, also representative to the Alberta Municipal Hospitals association, chairman of G.P. Co-Op. Poultry Producers association, on the board of the Alberta and Canadian Poultry pools.

Four sons and two daughters have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Pool, two of whom are now married.

. TO THE . Pioneers !

..

We wish to pay tribute to the courage, the will and the effort of the early settlers—both men and women—who converted the wild prairie and bushland into one of the Dominion's best farming areas, and we wish to pay our tribute of honor and respect to those pioneers who laid the foundations of settlement in the Grande Prairie district and the adjoining neighborhoods.

Few today can recall or picture the loneliness, the risks, the hardships, the deprivations, the ventures, the toil, the disappointments perhaps, of those earlier days. Few today can recall the spirit of adventure, the call of duty, the prospect of opportunity for them and theirs, which gradually peopled these districts.

With our stores at Grande Prairie and Sexsmith, it has been our pleasure and privilege during the past four years to serve the settlers of this community and to assist them in procuring the very highest quality of food stuffs at the most reasonable prices, and we look forward with confidence to the steady progress of this splendid district. We are certain there is a bright future ahead for the farmers, and other residents, in the Grande Prairie portion of the Great Peace River Country.

..

Bird's Grocery

CASH AND CARRY

Sexsmith and Grande Prairie

Alberta Wheat Pool...

takes advantage of this opportunity to bear testimony to the splendid co-operative spirit existant among the farmers of the Peace River area.

The courage and fortitude of the pioneer farmers of the Peace are attributes which turn a people naturally into the building of a co-operative movement. Based on the principles of equity, justice and freedom, the co-operative movement is bound to thrive among such a population.

Alberta Wheat Pool and Alberta Pool Elevators typify the highest development of the co-operative movement in Alberta.

Following An Ideal

The builders of Alberta Pool Elevators, the farm men and women who put their money, their time and their energy into the project, had definite ideas before them. They wanted a co-operative concern, first and foremost, operating on the basis of a public utility, with the profit secondary to that of equity and service, and built upon the foundations of co-operation as established imperishably by the pioneers of the movement.

These ideals and principles have been followed as closely as possible by Alberta Pool Elevators. It is the ambition of the organization to make this co-operative enterprise respected and trusted by all grain growers, its operations an open book to its patrons and its standing built on widespread confidence. In its broad sense, confidence is the foundation of all human relationships which possess the quality of endurance. The growth and life of any institution depends on the confidence it inspires and commands and can hold.

There is no more unanswerable way of expressing confidence in the worthiness of the ideals and objectives of this movement than by deliveries of bushels—wagon loads and car loads of grain to



Alberta Wheat Pool

Grande Prairie Herald

"IN THE SERVICE OF THE GREAT PEACE RIVER COUNTRY"

Section Five

SECTION FIVE

GRANDE PRAIRIE HERALD OLD TIMERS HISTORICAL EDITION

PAGE 1—

Adequate School Facilities Have Been First Care of The Pioneers

(By H. E. Balfour, Inspector of Schools)

The struggles and splendid achievements of the pioneers of this district in providing educational facilities for their children deserve a much more adequate chronicle than can be given by one who has come here as recently as myself. A wealth of material may be found in the old school district minute books and in the memories of the old-timers themselves. The little children for whom the early schools were built have grown into men and women, and their children are now at school. It is to be hoped that the colorful stories of this phase of the early life in the district will not be lost, but that someone will collect much of it before it is too late.

Of course, "history repeats itself"; and the person wishing to know how schools got started may find out today by visiting one of the many areas which are being opened up at the present date. Here one may see again as in the times of twenty-five years ago, the first school meetings, hear the arguments for and against, and take part in the discussions regarding school site, district boundaries, selecting trustees, the unfortunate delays, the real or fancied opposition of "the bachelors." In these new districts the building material is still logs, the desks are home-made, the children have very long distances to go, and the bachelors are still at their nefarious work of luring the lady teachers away from their positions to others of a more permanent nature.

Historically, the first school district organized south of the Peace appears to have been the old Spirit River S.D. (No. 2109), now known as Rycroft. This was followed by Beaver Lodge (2341) and Grande Prairie (2357). About a year later, Kleskun Lake (2743), Wapiti (2802), Lower Beaver Lodge (2812), Appleton (2818), Halcourt (2835) and MacHenry (2851) were organized.

The delineation of boundaries and other early steps in the formation of many of this group were undertaken by the early settlers, with the assistance of Dr. Coffin, now Principal of the Calgary Normal School. This gentleman cherishes fond and interesting memories of the meetings, of the colorful personalities who took part in them and of some of the forceful speeches which have not been recorded in the minutes.

Some of the landmarks of these early days are yet to be seen. At "Old Beaver Lodge" may still be seen the first log school, in marked contrast to the handsome school of brick which now houses two public school rooms and the Rural high school. In Grande Prairie the first school, which stood on the present site of the Frontier Lumber Company's yard, now forms part of the Oddfellows' hall; the second room which was added later, is now immediately north of the Royal Bank. In several of the early districts mentioned, the original building is still serving as a school.

It would be interesting to recall the early teachers of these schools; among them are Mr. I. V. Macklin, Miss Fitzgerald, (Mrs. Carlin), the late Mr. Dave Axon, the late Mr. Foy, Mrs. Clifford, Mr. E. H. Keith, Miss Mary McNaught, and many others who are still with us in the district. The first inspector appointed in the district, Mr. Farr, will be remembered by many, and his feats of maneuvering his car over all kinds of roads evoked the wonder and admiration of all who knew him.

While the pupils of these early schools have not yet had time to grow into filling many of the highest places in the political or business or professional life of the country, they have grown into men and women who reflect credit upon their schools and training and justify the efforts made on their behalf. Of those who have left here to distinguish (Continued on page two)

Inspector Balfour Insists Upon High Teaching Standard

The Grande Prairie country has been particularly fortunate in the fact that it has had the benefit of real leaders in its many enterprises and activities in promoting the social and commercial welfare of the district. In none of these has it been more fortunate than in the supervision of its schools.

Captain Harry E. Balfour is not only a school inspector, he is



H. E. BALFOUR
Inspector of Public Schools

to a very great degree supervisor and manager of the school system of the inspectorate over which he has charge. If a school is in financial difficulties and in danger of having to close for lack of funds, Inspector Balfour comes to the rescue. Where a board of trustees have been unable to carry on, he takes on the work of official trustee, and as a rule soon has things moving along on an even keel.

Himself a proficient educationalist, he demands and gets for the schools of his inspectorate the best teachers available with the result that the standard of the schools has been steadily improved.

Harry E. Balfour was born and received his early education in Ontario, attending schools at Stirling, Peterborough, Lindsay, and Albert College, Belleville. He has taken his B.A. degree from Queen's, Kingston, and his M.A., from Alberta University, and has also taken part of the undergraduate work at Cambridge during his stay in the Old Country. On coming to Western Canada, he taught in rural schools and in Parkdale school, Edmonton.

Enlisting shortly after the outbreak of the Great War he went over with the 51st Battalion, transferring to the 49th in France. He won the rank of Captain, was wounded and taken prisoner of war in the Battle of the Somme.

Since the war he has served as teacher in Victoria high school, Edmonton, 1919 to 1929, inspector of schools, Grande Prairie 1929 and 30; instructor at Normal, Edmonton, 1930-1933 and in 1933 was returned to his earlier position as inspector of the Grande Prairie school inspectorate.

First Separate School In North Established Here In 1927

In the days before the first public school was established in the north country, educational facilities were confined to the work of the early missionaries, and it would appear that Rev. Father LeTreste, when he established the Roman Catholic mission at Lake Saskatoon, spent a part of his time imparting instruction to the native children. Later, when he transferred the mission from Lake Saskatoon to

Grande Prairie, taking down the buildings and transporting them log after log to the new site, he made provision for carrying on this educational work.

Still later missions were established at Spirit River and at Sturgeon Lake, where public school facilities were provided for the native children as a part of the mission activities long before there was a provincial department of education in Alberta.

Apart from these mission activities no endeavor was made toward establishing separate schools in the Grande Prairie district until 1928, when a separate school was established in the town of Grande Prairie. The building was of brick construction, with two class rooms. This proved satisfactory until the summer of 1934, when, with the enrolment increased from 22 pupils to 80, the building was enlarged to twice its original size, accommodating four class rooms. In addition, the board procured another building for use as a boarding academy for pupils from out of town.

The school gives its pupils the benefit of the complete curriculum from primary work to Grade XII, and also musical instruction. The Separate School Board comprises Messrs. P. V. Croken, Wm. Bayhan, G. V. Stokes, Andrew Alt and E. M. Lanctot.

They have both done much to improve the livestock raised on the prairie and each takes great pride in his own herd.

Two sons and a daughter of James McFarlane are in the district, Mrs. (Dr.) A. M. Carlisle, Wembley, Norman Douglas McFarlane, Dawson Creek and Wallace Roy McFarlane, Grande Prairie.

Following the loss of his first wife, James McFarlane married Miss Alice Munro in Edmonton in 1928.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter McFarlane have a son and a daughter.

McFarlane Brothers

James and Walter G. McFarlane are two Ontario born boys who have made marks for themselves in the Peace River country.

They came in together, arriving at Grande Prairie City on March 17th, 1910, after a most eventful trip.

Walter McFarlane, D.L.S., was bringing in a survey crew, farming machinery and a heavy load of supplies. The twelve sleighs each carried a load of about two and a half tons.

Heading west from Grouard, the outfit made Sturgeon Lake and then started down the Simnnette river. It was chinooking and the water was running over the ice. When the Smoky was reached it was found the water was up to the freight racks on the sleighs but the western shore was reached safely.

However, other outfits just a few hours behind reached the Smoky to find the ice had gone out, necessitating their swimming their stock across and rafting their outfits, which delayed many of them three weeks.

On their arrival the brothers selected land, James at Lake Saskatoon and Walter near Buffalo Lakes. Having been raised where high grade cattle and horses were the rule, it was not surprising that both of the brothers soon after arrival took steps to bring in purebred stock.

Only in Photographs Do Yesterdays Live

And they become priceless as the years go by



Make up your mind to have that photo taken now. Every family has a loveable mother—a devoted father—a sweet little daughter or son—a sympathetic grandmother or a twinkly-eyed granddad—who should be photographed.

A photo by Leake is always a guarantee of a beautiful reproduction.

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R. E. LEAKE

Photographer
BEAVER LODGE, ALBERTA

EXTENDING TO ALL

OLD TIMERS

AND THEIR LATER
ARRIVED NEIGHBORS

The Compliments Of The Season

Weicker Hotel

MR. AND MRS. J. A. WEICKER
Proprietors

Sexsmith

Alberta

Schools

(Continued from page one)

themselves elsewhere might be mentioned a few: Don Sproule, now engaged in research work in London, England; his brother Campbell doing post-graduate work at Toronto; Jack Higby, an electrical engineer; Mr. Thoreson, principal of Wainwright high school; Mr. Harold Melsen, principal of Grande Prairie public school. A good many have become teachers of schools near their homes.

We who have to do with the problems of education in this part of the country, whether as pupils, teachers, inspectors or trustees, are grateful and appreciative of the efforts put forth by the old-timers to make education take its rightful place in the life of all comers. It is our duty to help in every way toward the realization of the worthy aims of self-sacrificing pioneers.

With these very incomplete notes on the beginnings of publicly maintained education in this area, we might turn with some interest to the present stage of its development, and to some consideration of the trends which will probably be followed in the future.

As settlers have flocked into the Peace River country, more and more new districts have required the establishment of schools until now there are one

hundred and twenty-six organized school districts south of the Peace, west of the Little Smoky, and east of the inter-provincial boundary. Thirteen of these have two teachers or more, the largest unit being that at Grande Prairie, with eight teachers in the public school and three in the high school, in addition to three teachers in the Separate school. Some of the old-timers received a considerable shock over the announcement that ninety-three teachers had registered at the recent convention held here, and were much more surprised to know that there are one hundred and fifty in this district.

Not only have the schools increased in numbers. We believe that the quality of the work done is slowly but certainly improving. The dearth of good teachers is no longer as acute as it was; in the somewhat cruel competition for positions teachers of higher qualifications both academically and professionally are increasing in numbers and influence. The standards of pupil-achievement in each grade are rising steadily. With improvements in communication and the general development of the area, the teacher is now being released from many of the tasks which fell to her lot in earlier days, and is able to devote her energies to the work in hand.

This district can be said to compare very favorably with

other inspectorates, even in the older parts of the province, in its provision of high school instruction. Eleven teachers are engaged in teaching only this higher grade of work; most of these hold university degrees.

Much is being said and written today regarding the inadequacy of our academic forms of "schooling" in preparing our young people for life. School curricula are being revised to permit more vital types of cultural training and to develop the varied abilities of all children. In this connection the school at Wembley deserves special mention, for here may be seen a well and economically equipped basement room complete with benches, lathes and woodworking tools where the boys are receiving a very practical training in carpentry and cabinet-making. While the boys are so engaged, the girls are receiving instructions in household science. The senior public school teacher, Mr. Whenham, and his wife have been responsible for the organization and teaching of these courses. Thus a start has been made in this territory in providing "pre-vocational" training; it is to be hoped that Wembley's example can be followed by other schools.

The future of our schools depends upon the people who support them. As conditions warrant increased expenditure, there are many directions in which further improvements may be expected. Higher salaries for better teachers, with greater security of tenure, additions to school libraries, improvement of facilities for healthful recreation, provision of musical instruments, elimination of over-crowding and separation of junior from senior grades so that all may have more of the teacher's time, and in some cases the replacement of old buildings by more modern and better equipped ones. As these improvements are made, the pupils, animated by the spirit of their elders who first blazed these trails, will respond and more than justify them.

The O. H. Johnsons

Pioneering on five frontiers was the experience of the late Oliver H. and Mrs. Mary Ann Johnson, who settled in the Beaver Lodge country early in 1909.

In 1886 Mrs. Johnson left Oslo, Norway with her parents in a sailing vessel bound for America. After many months they landed at Quebec from where they went to Wisconsin, where his father homesteaded.

Later, in Wisconsin, she met and married Oliver H. Johnson whose parents likewise had come from Norway. They then moved to Buffalo County, South Dakota, but receiving only two crops in seven years necessitated another move, this time to Interior, South Dakota, where they took up ranching. The district was unsettled except for some Sioux Indians and a few ranchers.

Next came a move to Gordon, Nebraska, where Mr. Johnson went into the mercantile business but four years later came the Oklahoma land rush and another move, to Lawton, Okla. The health of the family was not good in Oklahoma, so Mr. Johnson again set out to seek a new homestead.

Coming to Edmonton, he headed for the Peace River, reaching Sawridge late that fall of 1907. It was here he met up with the late Rede Stone and his brother the late Robert Stone and son Aubie who were headed for Grande Prairie with a large drove of horses. The weather became bad so they decided to winter there, and Mr. Johnson threw his lot in with them.

Early the following May the party arrived at Bear Lake and shortly after selected homesteads along the Beaver Lodge river, being the first to locate in the valley.

Mr. Johnson eagerly put in a garden, which included two acres of rutabagas, the resultant crop of which was so large that it was hard to dispose of them. It was from this circumstance that Mr. Johnson gained his nickname of "Rutabaga" Johnson.

In the summer of 1909 Mr. Johnson went to Edmonton to meet Mrs. Johnson and the family to bring them to their home in the Peace.

Oliver H. Johnson passed on to his home beyond on October 17th, 1916, leaving his widow, two sons and seven daughters and several grandchildren to carry on. Mrs. Johnson is content to be with her loved ones in this, the last of her pioneer homes.

L. C. Porteous Opened First Hardware Store

Lawrence Calver Porteous came to Western Canada with his family in 1885, settling in north central Manitoba.

In 1899 two important events occurred in his life; he was married to Miss Dina Dobbyn at Melita, Manitoba and he started in business for himself at Carlyle, Sask.

A year later, in company with a brother, he came north to Edmonton and engaged in railroad

contracting on the G.T.P., C.N.R. and E.D. & B.C. railroads.

Early in the summer of 1915 Mr. Porteous came to Grande Prairie, selected a site and commenced the erection of a hardware store building. Late that fall a carload of goods was shipped to McLennan, there loaded onto a gas boat and brought to Goodwin's crossing on the Smoky river from where it was teamed to Grande Prairie. Early in 1916 another carload reached Spirit River and was teamed overland.

The original store building has been enlarged several times until now it is one of the largest exclusive hardware stores in the north country. In addition to conducting this growing business Mr. Porteous has several fine farm properties which are operated under his supervision.

Always one to take an active interest in community affairs, Mr. Porteous has long been a valued member of the Board of Trade has served six years as town councilman and is on the executive of a number of local enterprises. In 1926 Mr. Porteous accompanied the Board of Trade delegation to Ottawa to lobby for a Pacific Coast outlet and he continues as one of that project's greatest advocates.

Mrs. Porteous is also very active in church and social movements, being the accepted leader of several women's groups to which she devotes considerable time and effort.



If wishes materialized we would wish that the old-timers and the new-comers in the Peace River country had all the money they needed.

Since starting our garage business in Grande Prairie we have ever tried to give prompt, dependable and honest work to our customers—at moderate charges.

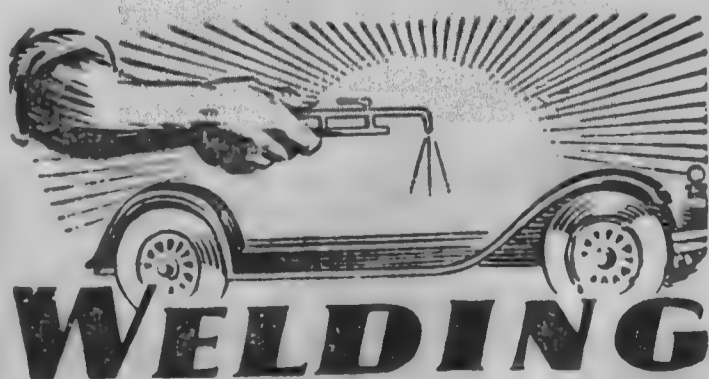
The steady growth of our business through the years, and our service to a wide territory, is ample evidence of the appreciation of our efforts.

Murphy & Charters

All Makes of Cars Serviced and Repaired

WELDING—RE-BORING

Grande Prairie, Alta.



JACK MARVIN
Proprietor of Palace Cafe

The Palace.

Housed in a commodious modern sanitary building with the most up-to-date equipment obtainable for the efficient serving of wholesome meals and light lunches, the Palace Cafe is able to offer you unusual service and satisfaction.

By the favor and confidence of the people of Grande Prairie this Cafe has grown to be the most popular one in the district. In asking for a continuance of that goodwill we assure you that no effort will be spared to give you the utmost in appetizing foods and courteous service.

PALACE CAFE

Grande Prairie, Alta.



Lake Saskatoon City in its Halcyon Days

The Ghost City of Lake Saskatoon

Thirty-five years ago on the shores of Lake Saskatoon, twelve miles west of Grande Prairie, the nucleus of what for a time appeared to be the making of an important town and trading point was laid when Cornwall and Bredin established a trading post.

As the years unfolded the new settlement grew and even after the railway had reached Grande Prairie in 1916 hopes were held for the continued growth of Lake Saskatoon city, as it was known in those days.

However, when the steel began to stretch westward from Grande Prairie it missed the pioneer townsite and perforce made it necessary for the business interests and residents to move their buildings and themselves to the new townsite of Wembley.

Today but one building remains on the old townsite, that being the Memorial hall erected by the Lake Saskatoon branch of the Canadian Legion. True enough, closely there also stand two churches both of which were erected and served the pioneer citizens of Lake Saska-

toon. The Anglican church was erected in 1911 largely through the efforts and work of Charles Purcell and Richard Brinkham. The old Methodist church erected under the supervision of Chas. F. Hopkins, who at that time was its minister, was completed in 1915 and is still used by the United church congregation.

In the memory of pioneers there still linger pleasant thoughts of happy times at Lake Saskatoon. The names of the business men of those early days as nearly as can be chronicled at this time are given below:

First to come were Cornwall & Bredin. Then came the Hudson's Bay company with Alex. Monkman, Charles Colebrook and M. Whittle. Revillon Freres had as early managers Wm. Lowe, Charlie Richardson and Herbert Mayne. The Diamond "P" Trading company with Capt. Forrest in charge was followed by Lamson & Hubbard and the Peace River Trading & Land Co., the latter with Finley Lawrence, T. P. Evans, J. B. Keith and Smithy as managers. Robert Kranz, who succeeded a Mr. Parker in the Sash and Door

factory in 1911, continued that line together with building contracting until 1916 when he started a general store business. Mr. Kranz still continues his store at Wembley.

Then there were Fowler, Heddle and Ross in the blacksmith business.

The first bank was the Canadian Bank of Commerce opened by a Mr. Brodie, succeeded later by G. Cady, now with the Buffalo Lakes Lumber Co.

Bert Thompson managed the first drug store owned by the Rexall Drug company, being succeeded by Ralph Thomson. Jim Langill was the first har-

nessmaker.

A hardware store was started by Gerald Evans, who sold to Bert Whittle, who later moved to Wembley and sold to G. F. Neilson.

Restaurant and rooming house keepers were Fred Blanchard, Jack Sutherland and J. E. Van Horne in the Royal; Bob Tilt and Mrs. Nash in the Empire and Charles Purcell in the Lakeview.

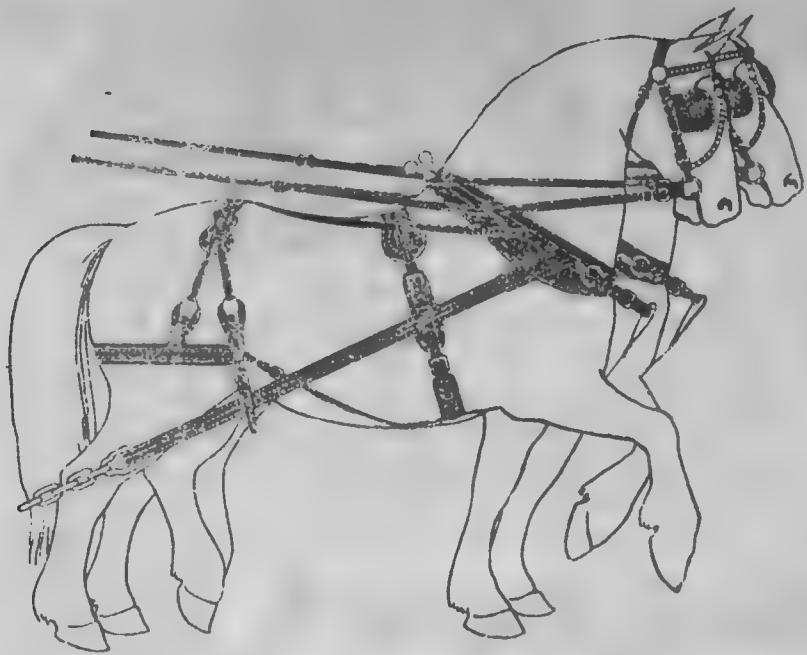
Liverymen of those days were Billy Kerplunk, Jack Sutherland, Doc Wainwright and Bob Tilt.

The first poolroom was opened in 1914 when Bob Abbott freighted the tables in from Edmonton. Later Jack Blanchard and

then Charles Cowpar conducted the business until the latter was burned out.

The first Dominion telegraph office was opened by John Byrne who later moved to Grande Prairie where he died. He was followed by North Coleman and then his wife took over. A. J. Rowland succeeded Mrs. Coleman. The first lineman was Charles Banford, then came Roly Harvey and Wes. Lovell who still carries on at Grande Prairie.

Today some are still carrying on in other lines of endeavor, some went overseas at their Empire's call and others have answered the last roll call.



43 YEARS Of Harness Making

It was in 1891 that J. C. Ward started in to learn the trade of harnessmaker in his father's shop at Seaforth, Ontario. His three brothers were also harness makers.

A true pioneer at the trade, he is in a position to give expert service and those who patronize him may rest assured that they will receive the very best workmanship obtainable in the north country.

Work Boots

A full stock of the best grade work boots at reasonable prices.

Harness Repairs

A SPECIALTY

Our hand-made harness will last a lifetime. Come in and get prices.



J. C. WARD

HARNESSMAKER

Leitgeb's Old Stand

Grande Prairie, Alta.

Frank White Wins Battle With Mosquitoes

Frank White ambled into the Rio Grande district in 1910, being the first known white man to cross the Red Willow River and pick himself a homestead.

Reticent to the nth degree, Frank has long been regarded as one of the strong silent men of the north. The following little anecdote therefore becomes interesting.

About mid July of 1913, Frank and Bert Funnell decided they would seek employment during the six months the government permitted them to be off their homesteads.

And so, equipped for their little walk over to Edson, with a little rice, tea and sugar and the clothes they were wearing, they blithely set forth. The first day they reached Grande Prairie City, tired but happy. Toward evening of the second day the Smoky River was reached and crossed by the ferry and then the fun began.

To start the ball rolling right, Frank stubbed his toe on a stump. What he had to remark over this incident would fill a large sized book—if a publisher could be found brave enough to publish it.

During this torrid period, Bert noticed a total absence of mosquitoes, clouds of which had been accompanying them for miles but could conjecture no reason for their sudden desertion.

A short distance further down the trail the boys met a party of landseekers, armed to the teeth with rifles, revolvers, hunting knives and from appearances, armoured vests. The landseekers were amazed to find Frank and Bert totally unarmed, other than carrying jackknives.

Being extremely proud of the weapons they were carrying, one of the landseekers was vainly displaying one of his revolvers

when it went off—the bullet barely missing Frank's nose.

It was then the phenomenal disappearance of the mosquitoes on previous occasions was revealed. The landseekers' curiosity about the lack of weapons on Bert and Frank was also explained.

With Frank's first outburst of rage over the careless discharge of the revolver and his close escape from injury, the mosquitoes quit the vicinity with alacrity, nor did they return again that day. Needless to say the landseekers also hurriedly left the scene.

The balance of the trip was made without incident. Whenever the skeeters became troublesome, Bert found some expedient to arouse his companion's extensive vocabulary, and the skeeters vanished.

On arrival at Edson, Bert found employment on the "Edson Leader" while Frank proceeded through to Edmonton where he also quickly secured a position.

The Robert F. Moores

When this Old Timers' Historical edition was planned about two years ago, a call went forth for a copy of the very first number of the Herald.

Mrs. Robert F. Moore of Clairmont promptly responded by sending in her copy of Volume I, Number I, also remarking that she had been a constant subscriber and reader down through the years.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Moore come from Huron County, Ontario, and after a short time in Rainy River, Ontario, and Winnipeg, Manitoba, they came to the Peace River, arriving here over the Athabasca Trail on March 17th, 1911.

With them were a daughter, Miss Margaret Moore who still resides at Clairmont with her parents and son David, whose untimely death occurred less than a year ago.

The Innes Brothers---Alex., Don. and Bill

Over in the bonny land of the Heather, near Glasgow, the late John Innes and his good wife, Mary Lang Innes, became parents to four sons and two daughters. One boy and the two girls still reside in Scotland close by their aging but still active mother.

Three of the boys, Alexander, Donald and William, had a yen to see the world, so came to Canada and eventually found their way into the Peace River country. Two still reside here.

WILLIAM INNES

During the summer of 1911, William Innes, manager of the Union Bank of Canada at Carbon, Alta., received instructions to proceed to La Grande Prairie and open a branch office.

It was a momentous trip for the twenty-six year old banker in many more ways than one. Entrusted with a sizable amount of cash, carried on his person with which to establish the new bank, hitting into a new country of which few had much knowledge, the old Athabasca-Grouard Trail alive with all types of men, the trip was one which could well have upset many an older man.

The famous trail was negotiated by sleigh, wagon, horseback

and afoot (mostly afoot) without incident, at least worthy of including in a report to head office.

In due time the new bank



"BILL" INNES
Grande Prairie's First Bank
Manager

was opened and Mr. Innes continued as its manager until the spring of 1927, when he was

transferred to Calgary, where he now resides.

"Bill Innes" as he was familiarly and popularly known throughout the north country, as a bank manager was "different" with a peculiar faculty for "sizing up" his customers. Bill often allowed all the old standards of good banking practice to go by the boards in extending a loan to a settler whom he considered worthy and of the right moral calibre. To Innes a loan was backed more by personal character and pluck than by all the collateral in the world. And his judgment was proved sound by the scarcity of frozen accounts on his books.

But he did not stop at his bank work. His interest in the development of the north was keen, and he was one of the most aggressive workers on behalf of all board of trade projects, and particularly in assisting to finance the fight for the Coast Outlet.

He was equally keen in sport, and no bonspiel today can be said to have reached the right degree of fellowship until "the boys" have stated, "Do you remember Bill Innes at the bonspiel at Spirit River," or some other place. He took and filled a large place in the community life of Grande Prairie during his sixteen years residence here.

Early in the spring of 1914 Miss Marguerite Boyd accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Boyd over the Edson Trail to Grande Prairie. The Boyds were from Smiths Falls, Ontario, but before coming to the Peace they had resided in Winnipeg.

On November 11th, 1914, at the home of her parents, Miss Boyd became the bride of Mr. Wm. Innes. Miss Luella Patterson was bridesmaid, while Mr. A. S. McLean, first manager of the local land office, later killed overseas supported the groom. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. W. McDonald and was witnessed by a host of friends of the happy couple. Three lovely children, two girls and a boy, all born in Grande Prairie, are with their parents in Calgary.

ALEXANDER INNES

The second of the Innes Clan to arrive in the Peace River was Alex, who in recent years has so capably filled the post of secretary of the rural municipality of Spirit River.

Alex was born in Glasgow in 1888. As a travelling salesman he visited all parts of Scotland and England before sailing for Canada in the late winter of 1912. In any event, February 22nd, 1913, saw him on the Edson Trail heading for La Grande Prairie, arriving here on April first. He proceeded on to the Spirit River district to select his homestead.

On the outbreak of the Great War Alex enlisted in the 66th Batt., serving overseas until the Armistice.

A few years of farming in the bountiful Spirit River district enabled Alex to make a trip out to Edmonton, where in October, 1923, he married Miss Marie McNally and brought her back to reside over his household.

Mr. Innes is a member of the A.F. & A.M., the I.O.O.F., Canadian Legion, and ever at the forefront of all public enterprise.

DONALD INNES

Mayhap the fact that the youngest of the Innes Clan of the Peace River was the last to arrive from the auld land accounts for him being the closest and most Scotch of the trinity. All efforts to pry loose a few words with which to make his story interesting, were futile. "E was na gi'n oot ony news."

"Don," as he is familiarly known, was born in 1890, some where in Scotland. Coming to Canada and the Peace early in 1914, he located a homestead adjoining his brother's near Spirit River. When the Empire's Call came he was one of the first to enlist and go overseas. After receiving his discharge he was appointed S.S.B. Inspector, a

position he filled most capably until about seven years ago, when he decided to go into business for himself, opening a garage at Sexsmith. It goes without saying that his business is a successful one.

In 1923 Mr. Innes married Mrs. McDermott, a war-widow of the Spirit River district and they have a lovely little daughter, born in 1925.

One of the outstanding business men of Sexsmith, member of the Canadian Legion, Masonic order and supporter of the United Church, Mr. Innes can be regarded as solidly settled in the land of his adoption.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. B. Sheehan

Although they both came from North Dakota to the Peace River country in 1910, coming over practically the same trail, but arriving a month apart, it was not until two years later at Lakota, North Dakota, that Jennie Marie Morken and Thomas B. Sheehan were married. And their honeymoon included the arduous journey over the Edson Trail to their new home near Clairmont Lake.

Tom Sheehan was born at Modena, Wisconsin. Leaving there in 1898 he went to Esmond, North Dakota where he homesteaded and farmed four years. He then came to Canada,

selecting a homestead near where Imperial, Sask., now stands.

In the spring of 1910 Mr. Sheehan turned his face to the Peace River country and after an eventful trip over the long trail with saddle and pack-horses, finally selected and filed on South African Script at Clairmont Lake.

The intervening years have seen the Sheehan farm come to the front ranks of the finest farms in the north. A man who takes particular pride in horses and cattle, it is not surprising that his sons have already made names for themselves in the junior club work.

Mrs. Sheehan was a native of Nelson County, North Dakota, where her father and two brothers still reside. In June of 1910 she accompanied the Brekken party to the Peace River, following the long Slave Lake, Peace River Crossing Trail and not reaching Grande Prairie until September 15th. In the latter part of June, 1911, she returned to her southern home but one year later she again came north, as the bride of Tom Sheehan. One brother, A. K. Morken resides in the Clairmont district.

To the Sheehan home have come four sons and three daughters, Bernard M., Everett A., Lavern T., John Wallace, Norine Ann and Jean Carol, all living at home. One little girl Marjorie Thea is deceased.

The Richards, McNaughton Co.

LIMITED

Carrying on the Pioneer Store established by
Dave Sexsmith

IN

Sexsmith

As during the years gone by it is our
greatest pleasure to be of service to

THE PIONEERS

And those that came later

You are always welcome to make our store
your headquarters in town

Richards, McNaughton Co.

LIMITED

General Merchants
SEXSMITH, ALBERTA

PIONEERS . .

Paid big prices for flour when it had to be
freighted in over the Edson Trail

To-day . .

They obtain a high grade baking flour right
here in Hythe at exceptionally reasonable prices

Bring in your wheat—Take home your flour
without tedious delays

Custom Gristing at 25 cents per bushel.

Chopping 10 cents per Cwt.

HYTHE MILLING CO.

HYTHE

ALBERTA

Pioneers . . OF The Peace

Have always demanded quality when selecting
their Hardware and Agricultural Implements

THAT IS WHY THE TWO

Bunyan & Elliott Hardware Stores

and

Machinery Depots

Have enjoyed the confidence and patronage
of residents of

WEMBLEY and HYTHE Districts

Complete Stocks of
HARDWARE, PAINTS, CROCKERY
Priced to fit the times

COCKSHUTT AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY



Radios

WE OFFER YOU A
CHOICE FROM

All Leading Lines

or

Battery or Electric

MANTEL AND
CABINET MODELS
PRICED FROM

\$56 to \$250

Wm. C. Pratt Brought First Printing Press Over the Old Edson Trail

The pioneer days of any country are usually the happiest and best of all. Very little trouble, no worries and everybody having a good time.

Early days in Grande Prairie were no exception. Many of the gatherings resembled a gala reunion of one large family, and so I believe many of the Old Timers will thoroughly enjoy turning back the pages of history and again gather at Lake Saskatoon or Grande Prairie once more to enjoy one of those celebrations which were famous for community hospitality and building of everlasting friendships.

As the first Editor and Publisher in the Peace River Country and founder of the *Grande Prairie Herald*, I wish to congratulate the present publishers on the publication of an anniversary number dedicated to the pioneers and their early experiences.

The Peace River Country is known far and wide as the seed-bed of Canada which justifies a slogan given to the country in 1914 by the *Herald*, "The Garden Bed of the Dominion of Canada." The Grande Prairie district and in fact the entire Peace River in the early days was settled with as thrifty and

sociable a class of people as ever graced any country with their citizenship. Practically everyone has made good even in the face of inadequate transportation facilities.

If you were to ask this question of every early settler, "Why did you come to the Peace River?" the answer would invariably be "We wanted good, clean land in a new country so that we could build for the future and produce for the bread basket of the world."

The writer was no exception. The summer of 1912 found me in a mining camp at the head of the Portland Canal on the Alaskan border, suffering from the effects of a mining boom. It was then I took a solemn oath to myself that my next move would be to a good farming community where production was sure. No more mining booms but instead the stability of farm products for as everyone knows "Wheat is as good as gold."

The wonderful opportunities of the Peace River were unfolded to me by one of the early settlers, the late Mr. Alpheus Patterson, who also was my father-in-law. From a lengthy letter he wrote me about this time, the following extract is taken: "I

cannot find words too strong to urge you to come at once to the Peace River Country. It has everything that any other country possesses and much more. It is the Last Great West and



WM. C. PRATT
Pioneer Publisher

offers more opportunities to the man of moderate means than any other part of the world."

With such a promise in hand, it is not surprising that early summer of 1912 saw Mrs. Pratt, myself and small son Garnet enroute, via Vancouver, Edmonton and Edson.

On arrival at Edmonton we found the Peace River the main topic of conversation. The Canadian Northern were building in the spring. The survey was completed, charter granted bonds sold and money in the bank. The charter route was from Onoway on the main line through the Grande Prairie district to Ground Hog Mountain and thence to the Pacific Coast. Even literature distributed by the Dominion government showed the railway completed to this country.

No person who came over the Edson Trail during the summer months will ever forget it. The provincial government had made a feeble effort to construct a trail, of which it has been said, "It served a purpose but served it very badly." What was seen along the trail beggars description. Mud holes and then more mud holes, some a few yards and some many miles long.

Teams hauling loads wallowing up to their bodies in mud, making only a couple of miles a day in places. Men, women and children enduring hardships that brought the best out of each, but with hope and grim determination written on the faces of all. The weak and easily discouraged turned back at the Athabasca, the strong and determined kept on and on. The trail must end some place and then 160 acres of land, home and eventually prosperity.

That is one of the reasons that the early settlers were all "He" men and "Real" women for I am told that the Grouard route was worse. Eventually we arrived at Sturgeon Lake and after paying our respects to the various Fur Trading Posts, the Roman Catholic Mission and the Indian Chief we pushed on. In due time we swam our horses across the famous Smoky river and after climbing the Smoky hill there lay the Grande Prairie district.

What a sight! As far as the eye could carry, open land slightly rolling virgin soil only awaiting the plow of the settler to make it productive. My trail the top of Kleskun Hill, he going to a homestead and I to Grande Prairie. Here I found everybody busy. Farmers getting their improvements made, merchants selling goods and buying furs, carpenters as busy as they could possibly be. And all of them, banker, merchant, farmer optimistic and hustling.

It was then that the idea of starting a weekly newspaper was suggested by Mr. Patterson. "You are a printer by trade. This country needs a paper and

in my opinion you are the right man in the right place." Sold on the idea I left for Edmonton via Edson to purchase a plant so as to be able to return on the snow.

The Toronto Type Foundry told me I would have to pay cash for my outfit as in their opinion I was going out of civilization with the plant. 250 miles off a railway did not appeal to their credit manager. I therefore had to cut my cloth according to my purse. Arrangements were made with Jack Patterson, Bernard Sully and Jobe Hamilton to come out after the plant which consisted of a Gordon foot press, a few cases of type and a sharp butcher knife for a paper cutter.

Arriving at Grande Prairie the weather was hovering around 40 below. No door of any building was wide enough to let the press in so it was necessary to skid the press off beside the building that is now occupied as a Masonic Temple. When the weather moderated, Pete Roy and Allan Wilson built a building around the press. In later years when the plant was being moved to a new building they could not get the press out of the building and I was called upon to explain how it got in the building. It might be here said that no guarantee or subscription list was requested for the reason that had any part of the press or outfit been either missing or broken I might have found myself unable to publish

a paper. Any person wishing to subscribe could leave their money with the Union Bank and if we published it would be accepted. Everything was in order and on the 25th day of March, 1912, at 3 o'clock in the morning we placed the form in the press and "presto, change" the birth of an new addition to Alberta Journalism was recorded in the *Grande Prairie Herald*. The late Pat Kelly was the first subscriber and received the first copy off the press.

(A facsimile reproduction of this first edition will be found in the centre of section three of this issue.)

A country newspaper man is not supposed to have any money. In our particular case we were true to form. We owned the plant, a keg of ink, and some paper. We were as free of money as a frog is of feathers. Every business must organize and this we did, but on the closed corporation principle. Mrs. Pratt was subscription manager, secretary-treasurer and society editor. Every printing office must have a "Printers Devil" or apprentice so, Garnet R. Pratt, then 4 years old got that appointment, while I officiated as general manager, news editor and printer.

The future, however, was no bed of roses. We brought in supplies which we considered would be sufficient but early in the year we ran short of the white paper *The Herald* was published on. Orders were sent (Continued on page six)

When in need of anything Electrical remember to call

Fee's Electric Service

Electrical Contracting of all kinds
FIXTURES, SUPPLIES, REPAIRS

We specialize in the complete rewinding and reconditioning of all makes of motors and generators including the Automotive Types.

Designers and builders of the largest ELECTRIC WELDER north of Edmonton, installed at J. R. Connell's Machine Shop, Grande Prairie

Estimates given on any Electrical Work

Fee's Electric Service

W. C. FEE, Electrician

Phone 234

Grande Prairie

SINCE 1928

THE

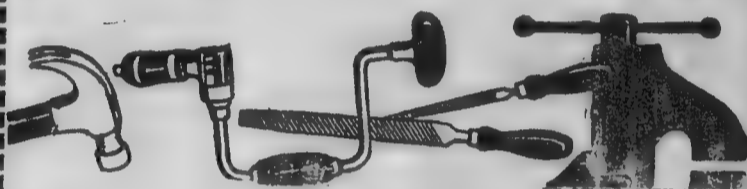
ALLEN and DAVIS GARAGE BEAVER LODGE

Have been rendering efficient garage service to

Old Timers and New Timers Alike

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation of the patronage extended and hope for a continuance

A HEARTY WISH IN A CHEERY WAY FOR THE
MERRIEST KIND OF A CHRISTMAS DAY



Announcement!

The hardware business conducted in Sexsmith since 1929 under the name

MacEwen Hardware

has been taken over by Mr. H. M. McMillan, an experienced and capable hardware man.



Mr. McMillan wishes to advise all former patrons and residents of the district that he will be pleased to have the opportunity of serving them.

A modern stock of hardware, paints, crockery and furniture will be carried and personal attention given to your requirements.

McMillan Hardware

H. M. McMILLAN, Prop.

Sexsmith Alberta



Wm. C. Pratt

(Continued from Page Five)

to Calgary for paper but no freight was possible to get through on account of the condition of the roads. Only registered mail and letters. Paper we must have. We had some colored poster paper and each week we appeared in a different color until the press outside wondered what we were celebrating. We gave a fresh excuse each week. A New York paper happened in some way to get a copy of the *Herald* when we were in different colors and wrote a very elaborate account of the printer who went 250 miles from civilization with a newspaper plant. He likened us to a Chameleon, a small animal that changes its color to suit its surroundings. We were down to a roll of wrapping paper when Caywood & Robbs mail pack train pulled in with a couple of sacks of white paper that we had ordered forward by registered mail and each week for some time after we received one sack. The paper was registered and they had to bring it through. Mr. Caywood told others what he thought but treated us with silent contempt.

Paper Sold to Oblingers

In the early summer of 1915 the paper was leased to Oblinger Bros., who were printers by trade but were homesteading at Spirit River. Later the same year they purchased the business.

The *Herald* has since grown up. It has passed through a few changes in ownership and management. Oblinger Bros. had associated with them in 1916 Mr. Chas. Kitchen, a printer who worked for us on the paper in 1914 and who is now owner and editor of the *Peace River Block News* of Dawson Creek. George Duncan succeeded Oblinger Bros. and was a partner with Kitchen and then came the present owner and publisher, Mr. Chas. W. Fred-

erick, who also owns the *Peace River Record*.

It is still the *Grande Prairie Herald*, its course has always been pretty straight, from a political and religious point of view, independent, and may it always keep up its proud boast of never having missed an issue.

Many Newspaper Changes

Perhaps an historical sketch of the *Grande Prairie* district would be incomplete if no mention were made of the origin and development of the newspaper itself which has undertaken the compilation and publication of this number.

The *Grande Prairie Herald* is the oldest newspaper in the Peace River country, the first edition having been published on March 25, 1913. William C. Pratt was the first editor and publisher, and the story of his trek from Edmonton with a small foot press, a few cases of type and a large butcher knife to be used as a paper cutter is one of the epics of pioneer journalism. Mr. Pratt purchased his outfit in Edmonton and freighted it in over the Edson Trail. On arrival, there was no building in the settlement with a door sufficiently wide to admit the small press, so it was unloaded on a vacant lot and left until moderate weather permitted the erection of the first print shop building.

In those days the movement of supplies was the biggest problem, and when they ran short Editor Pratt was sometimes obliged to issue his paper on colored poster and was once on the verge of using wrapping paper, when the arrival of a supply of paper by registered mail saved the day.

Following three and one-half years of newspaper work, Mr. Pratt sold the *Herald* to Oblinger Bros., who in turn took in Mr. Charles S. Kitchen, who had

come to *Grande Prairie* as printer for Mr. Pratt in 1914. Still later, Mr. Kitchen and George Duncan acquired the business from Oblinger Bros. and in keeping with the steady growth of the town and district, they enlarged the plant and erected the present *Herald* Block.

During these years several other newspaper ventures in *Grande Prairie* and the surrounding district budded hopefully, bloomed with varying degrees of brilliance or perfume and faded into that obscurity which has enveloped so many



CHAS. W. FREDERICK
Owner of the *Grande Prairie Herald*

many similar pioneer enterprises. Almost periodically the *Herald* bought up one plant after another, until by 1925 a carload of used equipment was shipped out of the country.

On May 1st, 1927, Messrs. Kitchen & Duncan sold the *Herald* to the present owner, Mr. Chas. W. Frederick, who came north in May 1914, and established the *Peace River Record*

which he still owns and edits. On the occasion of the last transfer of ownership much of the machinery was scrapped and new equipment installed, bringing the plant more in line with modern requirements. It is worth noting that from the little pioneer sheet of 22 years ago (a facsimile reproduction of which will be found in Section three of this number) which found as subscribers a handful of pioneer settlers, the circulation of the *Herald* has grown to 3,159, the largest circulation enjoyed by any weekly newspaper in the three western provinces.

From the start the *Herald* has worked consistently for the upbuilding of the *Grande Prairie* district. Particularly in recent years it has visioned the entire south Peace River country as one widespread community in which the interest of each locality should be the interest of all.

Robert Kranz

Robert Kranz, leading merchant of Wembley, was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Before he had reached his majority the call of the west kept him ever moving west and north, until 1905 found him following his trade of carpenter and builder in Calgary.

During the next six years, between seasons were utilised in proving up on a homestead near Wimbome, Alta.

Early spring of 1911 found Mr. Kranz headed to the Peace River and in May of that year he started as contracting builder in the new townsite of Lake Saskatchewan. For the next five years he was busy constantly with his contracting business and duties on a South African Script half section which he was improving.

On January 1st, 1916, Mr. Kranz opened a general store at Lake Saskatchewan which was con-

tinued successfully until the railway reached Wembley in 1926 when Lake Saskatchewan was abandoned by the removal to Wembley.

In addition to the large store business, Mr. Kranz built in 1931 and operated until its destruction by fire two years later, a modern flour mill in Wembley. Hopes are still maintained by residents of the district that Mr. Kranz will re-build and re-open the mill as it proved not only a successful venture but a great convenience to the settlers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In this edition the *Grande Prairie Herald* offers to its thousands of readers a review of the development of the *Grande Prairie* district over the past twenty-five years. In the preparation of the material submitted, we acknowledge with our sincere thanks the very valuable assistance of Mr. W. D. Albright, superintendent of the dominion experimental substation at Beaver Lodge, for his comprehensive review of agricultural problems; to Mr. J. A. Fitzallen, now of Vermilion, but formerly secretary-treasurer of the town of *Grande Prairie* and secretary of the board of trade; board of trade officers, past and present, and the large number of old-timers throughout the district who have contributed to the wealth of information from which the material for this edition has been compiled.

Our thanks are also extended for plates loaned or supplied by *The Family Herald and Weekly Star*, by *Canadian Comment* and by the *Edmonton Journal*, whose assistance in this regard has been a very real help. We wish also to acknowledge the help of so many of our subscribers who have supplied pictures of old-timers and points of interest.

PEMBER'S LIMITED

Grande Prairie

Men's & Boys' Furnishings Boots and Shoes



Scores of pioneers throughout the Peace River country have learned that they can save money on their wearing apparel by purchasing it from Pember's Limited. Our policy of giving the greatest values at the lowest prices has made for us a host of satisfied customers.

We greatly appreciate the patronage we have received from old timers and new comers alike, and are sincere when we state that it shall ever be our aim to give the utmost satisfaction at all times.

IF IN NEED OF CLOTHING COME TO

PEMBER'S

Limited



FULL LINE
OF
WORK CLOTHES

Rev. and Mrs. H. N. Ronning

In the autumn of 1912 there came to the Grande Prairie country a small party who were seeking what might be a location for a great many of their countrymen.

The Rev. Halvor Nilsson Ronning and his good wife, her brother Olaf Horte and J. O. Johnson left Kingman, Alta., to look over the new Valhalla they dreamed of in the north. They came in over the Edson Trail with wagons and it proved to be a very discomforting trip.

After carefully looking over the district, they decided to settle in what is now known widely as the Valhalla district.

On their return to Kingman with glowing accounts of the fertility of the soil and opportunities awaiting, a large party of Norwegians prepared themselves for the trekk northward early in the spring of 1913.

During the succeeding eight years the Ronning home was constantly crowded with new settlers who accepted the wonderful hospitality offered until they could get their new homes ready for occupancy.

The Rev. Mr. Ronning, who had left his native Norway and came to Red Wing, Minnesota, in 1883, had in those thirty years served as teacher, missionary and minister in many charges, including a period in China.

Shortly after his arrival in Valhalla a new church was started, from which several more have sprung in the intervening years to care for the rapidly increasing number of Norwegian Lutherans settling in the north.

In 1921 he was called to an important post in the United States and until 1933 they made their home in Minneapolis. Resigning from his post, Mr. Ronning and his family returned to their Valhalla home to spend the eventide of an eventful life.

Mr. Ronning was first married in Hankow, China in 1891 to Miss Hannah Rorem. Seven children came to bless this union, all being born in China. The eldest is dead. C. A. Ronning is M.L.A. for Camrose, Harold is teaching in Camrose, one son lives in China and the others reside in the States.

Several years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Ronning was again married to Miss Gunhild Horte in 1911 at Crookston, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. Jean Lozeron

It is a long way from Auvergnier, Neufchatel, Switzerland to the Peace River country but Jean Lozeron not only covered the distance but has since covered himself with the distinction of becoming a successful farmer and a leader in public affairs. Incidentally it might be men-

tioned that enroute to the Peace Mr. Lozeron was for a time a Brock, Nebraska, and farming for a short time at Laura, Sask.

He came in from Edmonton over the Lesser Slave Lake trail, arriving at Grande Prairie on December 28th, 1912. His trail experiences were far from pleasant, especially crossing Lesser Slave Lake with the ice cracking under the feet of the team.

In January of 1922, he was married to Miss May Saul, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Saul, who come in over the Edson Trail in January, 1912. One boy and three girls have come to the Lozeron home to make their permanent residence.

Jean Lozeron has served Bear Lake Municipality as Councillor and Reeve for several years, is a member of the B.P.O.E. director of the Agricultural society and actively prominent in all movements for the public good.

One brother, Pierre Lozeron, is farming in the district.



A. H. McQUARRIE
District Engineer

Building Roads Since 1910

In the development of the Grande Prairie country no person has taken a more active part than A. H. McQuarrie, district engineer for the department of Public Works, who has spent the past twenty four years locating and building roads for the north country.

A native of Pictou County, Nova Scotia, Mr. McQuarrie came to Edmonton as a young man and entered the service of the public works under the old territorial government before the province of Alberta was formed. Later, in 1908, he was offered and accepted a position with the provincial public works department, and spent the first few years chiefly in bridge construction.

He was married in 1911 to Miss Margaret Fergusson, who had also come from Nova Scotia, and they have a family of two sons and one daughter.

During the summer of 1910 Mr. McQuarrie was called into Edmonton by the chief engineer of his department and was offered the post of district superintendent of all the territory north west from Edmonton. On taking up his new work he spent some time in the Lake St. Anne and Whitecourt districts. In the late fall of the same year he started out to make a reconnaissance of the suggested trails from Whitecourt into the Grande Prairie district. After a six weeks trip with pack horses, he returned and reported the route as unsuitable for a road. Attention was then turned to the Edson route. A contractor named Kimpe had started a road from Medicine Hat Lodge, but this was later abandoned, and the government, in an endeavor to give some assistance to the rush of settlers starting north from Edson, sent in road crews and men to build ferries on the streams. Mr. McQuarrie was a busy man, often walking from camp to camp through heavy snow in order that every avail-

able team might be kept on actual road work.

One road crew was put to work under the foremanship of the late Elmer E. Davidson and another under the late Dr. Shaw, who spent two years as road foreman and doctor before opening an office for private practice in Grande Prairie.

Those who have come into the country over the Edson Trail will remember for life the terrible condition of it. But, bad as it was, they could never have gotten through at all had it not been for the energetic work of the district engineer in carrying on the work of construction with every man and horse at his disposal. At one time, when feed supplies were holding up the work, the district engineer with his own personal funds purchased hay and oats at Edson for delivery to his crews, only to have these supplies disappear along the trail before reaching their destination.

For several years Mr. McQuarrie's chief concern was the improvement of the Edson Trail, with frequent trips to supervise work on the trail which led north to Spirit River and Waterhole to connect with a somewhat less fearsome trail to Edmonton via Grouard and Athabasca. With the coming of the railway the necessity for the old trails ceased, and since that time his work has been the building and improvement of district roads. Hardships and

privation on the trails have been only a part of the day's work to this hardy pioneer, whose quiet good nature and ever ready smile is evident in even the most difficult situations.

Mr. and Mrs. I. V. Macklin

Irvin Victor Macklin was born at Fenella, Northumberland County, Ontario, of good old United Empire Loyalist stock.

After his schooling at Fenella, he won the Senate scholarship at Albert College, Belleville and later graduated from the Toronto University with a B.A. degree.

Leaving Fenella early in July of 1910, Mr. Macklin came into the Peace over the long Slave Lake, Peace River Crossing, Dunvegan trail to arrive at Grande Prairie on September 20th. He immediately located on land just east of town where he has continued to reside.

In January, 1912, at Edmonton he was married to Miss Neil Cass an Ontario girl and their honeymoon was spent on the Edson Trail. One son and one daughter have blessed their marriage.

Mr. Macklin has taken a prominent part in political affairs and at present is regional director for the U.F.A. He and Mrs. Macklin are active in church and community interests. One brother, Roy Davidson Macklin, farms in the Elmsworth district.

The Pioneers!

And we who now dwell in cities,
How shall we tribute pay
To those who wish faith and courage
Braved the untrodden way?
Ah, with full hearts and thankful,
Let us look back down the years,
And praise God that we reap the harvest
Sown by the pioneers.

The Metropolitan Drug Store of the North

Butchart's Drug Store, by far the largest and most up-to-date in the Peace River country, enjoys the regular patronage of a host of pioneers and new comers.

In the large and modern dispensary prescriptions are carefully and accurately compounded from none but the very highest quality of drugs.

Butchart's Tea Room and Soda Fountain

Operated in conjunction with Butchart's Drug Store, is the most modernly equipped Tea Room and Soda Fountain north of Edmonton.

BUTCHART'S

DRUG STORE

C. G. BUTCHART, Phm. B.

Phone 28

Grande Prairie

Personal Service

We have been in the Grande Prairie district for fourteen years and for the past eight years have operated a Machine Shop, which is counted as quite an achievement in this line of business. All through these years we have simply tried to carry on a straight, clean, dependable business, giving our customers a personal service at fair charges.

Many of the early settlers still have their work done at this shop and at this time we wish to pay tribute to their splendid spirit of courage and enterprise which has resulted in making this district one of the best in Alberta.



Welding

WE OPERATE THE LARGEST
ELECTRIC WELDING OUTFIT
NORTH OF EDMONTON



Jack R. Connell

MACHINE SHOP

WELDING, LATHE WORK, ETC.

Grande Prairie, Alta.

Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist Missionaries Arrived in 1909-10

The history of church work in the Grande Prairie district has been the history of pioneer missionaries who gave their whole heart to the work of their respective churches. This has applied to all churches alike, from the young man who came as a missionary of the Roman Catholic church and erected the first log house of worship at Dunvegan seventy years ago and lived to become the Bishop of his Diocese,



THE LATE REV. A. S. FORBES

down to the more recent missionaries who have manned the many small churches of all denominations now scattered far and wide.

Father Grouard, who later became the Reverend Bishop Grouard, came to the Peace River country as a young man, and built his first church at Dunvegan. He was a pioneer in every respect and his great versatility was evidenced from the outset. With his own hands, and the assistance of natives, he erected the log church building which still stands on the river bank near the ferry landing at Dunvegan. One of his acts which has received no little public attention was the painting of sacred pictures. A gifted artist, he had brought some paints with him, but the matter of canvas was another question. So he procured two moose hides, tanned by the natives, and after joining these to make his "canvas" sufficiently wide, he proceeded to paint his picture of The Christ, which now adorns the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Peace River.

Father Grouard made many missionary visits to Buffalo Lakes, where the Hudson's Bay Company maintained a post, and to other points in the district. Later, when a settlement began to be established at Lake

Saskatoon, Father LeTrestre established the first Roman Catholic Mission on the Prairie at that point, and when settlement began at the present town-site of Grande Prairie he took down the building log by log and moved it to Grande Prairie. The later history of the Roman

"APOSTLE OF THE NORTH"
THE LATE BISHOP GROUARD

The late Bishop Grouard was not only a Priest and later a Bishop of his Church. He was truly an Apostle ministering to all people alike, studying and meeting the needs of natives, traders and settlers with an understanding heart and an unselfish love for humanity that endeared him to all peoples of all religious faiths. His name will remain not only as the "Apostle of the North" but as one of the truly great figures in the building of Western Canada.

Catholic church is combined in the story of Rev. Father Josse, who for many years was in charge of this parish.

ANGLICAN

Among the Protestant churches, the Anglicans were the first to establish a mission in this district, this being the Anglican mission established at Lake Saskatoon in 1909 under the charge of Rev. F. W. Moxhay, and the settlers who began to come in appreciable numbers in that year will never forget the regal hospitality of this first clergyman and his wife. Services were at first held in the mission house, the first church being erected in 1911, when Canon F. Smith, rector of St. George's on Richmond Hill, London, visited the district and established several churches, among them being St. George's on Richmond Hill, Holy Trinity at Bredin; another two miles southwest of the present town of Wembley; one at Hermit Lake, built by the widow of Mr. Selby, a surveyor who had been drowned in the Athabasca river. This latter church has recently been moved to Flying Shot settlement.

In 1913 Rev. Hugh Speke, rector of Currey River, Somerset, took charge of the mission at Lake Saskatoon and was very active, taking services as far east as the Smoky river, west to Pouce Coupe and Buffalo Lakes in the north, where a log church was built. A South African War veteran, he joined his regiment early in the Great War, and was killed a year later. The Rev. F. V. Abbott succeeded him, moving to Appleton, between Beaver Lodge and Halcourt, when the Rev. Robert Holmes of Shaftesbury mission was transferred to Lake Saskatoon. He died in 1916 and was succeeded by Rev. Randall, then Rev. Washburn in 1918. On the resignation of Rev. Washburn, the Rev. F. V. Abbott, having previously been moved to Grande Prairie City, undertook Lake Saskatoon district until the arrival of the Rev. J. A. Burness in the fall of 1919. From then on, the pioneer conditions practically disappeared with the advent of cars, and these clergy who laid the foundation of the Church in the Grande Prairie district deserve great credit for

the long drives in all weathers and temperatures, that they had to make in the carrying on of their work.

It would not be fitting to omit mention of the ladies who have made it possible for the work of the church to be carried on, and as it would be impossible to name them all, we will name two who have been outstanding, and who are now life members of the W.A. namely Mrs. Robert Holmes, now residing at the Indian Residential School, Edmonton, and Mrs. W. F. Bredin, residing at Bredin.

PRESBYTERIAN AND UNITED

The history of the Presbyterian and United Churches dates back to 1909, when the late Rev. Alexander Forbes visited this district, and held services at the home of Rede Stone, at Beaver Lodge, where Anglican services had also been held prior to the establishment of the mission at Lake Saskatoon. Rev. and Mrs. Forbes returned in 1910 to remain and carry on their work, the story of which is covered in another article.

It would appear that one of the first efforts toward church co-operation, which later led to the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, was made in this field, when Rev. Forbes, representing the Presbyterians, and Rev. C. F. Hopkins, who had come about the same

time as a minister of the Methodist faith, divided the district by an imaginary line north and south through Saskatoon Lake. Mr. Hopkins ministering to the

(Continued on page nine)



His Excellency Bishop Guy who succeeded the late Very Reverend Bishop Grouard in the Bishopric of Grouard. An accomplished scholar and leader. Bishop Guy commands a high place in the esteem of the north country.

1831-1934

103 Years of Leadership

It was in July of 1831 that Cyrus Hall McCormick lightened the task of agriculturists throughout the world. At that time, on his father's farm in Virginia, he perfected the first mechanical reaper known to mankind.

Since 1914 in Grande Prairie

It would be practically impossible to correctly estimate the millions of bushels of famous Peace River grains that have been harvested with McCormick-Deering Binders, which have been sold in these parts since 1914—first by the late Chris. McDonald, later by the Crummy Bros. (George and Joe) and for the past fifteen years by Frank Crummy.

Leaders in 1831 Leaders in 1934

The dependability of I.H.C. Farm Machinery has long been world famous

Frank Crummy

I.H.C. AGENT
Grande Prairie, Alta.

A LETTERHEAD
is a good investment

Let us make you an attractive letterhead design for your notepaper and envelopes. Good stationery is good business. The cost will be small and the results very gratifying to you.

Write the details of your name, address, the name of your firm if it has one and whatever you may specialize in, clearly on a sheet of paper. To this pin two one dollar bills and mail to McDermid Studios Ltd., Edmonton.

We will draw you a distinctive letterhead design and send it to you together with the cost of the plate.

McDERMID STUDIOS LIMITED
10133 - 101 STREET - EDMONTON - ALTA.

PIONEERS...

While not pioneers in this great Peace River Country we feel that we made a good choice in locating here. We like the country and we like the people in it. We have tried to keep pace with the newest and soundest ideas in the heating and plumbing field, and to give the people of Grande Prairie and district a satisfactory service at moderate charges. If you contemplate any new work or any remodeling, we should be pleased to go into the matter with you. Possibly we can help you with suggestions and plans—and save you money.

We specialize in out-of-town business—None too large—None too small.

Guy H. Stokes

HEATING PLUMBING TINSMITHING
Grande Prairie, Alta.

Modern Plant Distributes Power and Light to Surrounding District

Progress is limited according to the desire for advancement, and the most notable contributing factor to progress today is electricity. It has taken its place in every modern home, rural and urban, and in industry is the basis on which are built the great industrial enterprise of the present day. Electric power is revolutionizing the home, farm and industrial life of the civilized world.

A few years ago the benefits, comforts and conveniences of electric light, heat and power were available only to the larger centers, but now transmission lines traverse the country, bringing to the small villages the same service which the larger centers enjoy.

The first step toward the electrifying of what was then the village of Grande Prairie was made in the fall of 1917 when the council for that term took up the matter of installing an electric light plant for the service of the village. The proposal was favorably received and a company formed to sell shares in the project to only bona fide ratepayers. After numerous difficulties had been overcome the village finally had a plant consisting of two 25-h.p. oil engines

giving a limited service for lighting only.

As the village grew it became evident that expansion of the plant was absolutely necessary to take care of the growing demand for service, and in 1928, following negotiations with the Canadian Utilities Limited, a ten-year franchise was signed and the company undertook to supply 24-hour service for power, heat and light.

This entailed the expenditure of large sums of money to rebuild the plant and distribution system. A brick power house was constructed and a 200-h.p. modern Diesel engine installed. The same summer the distribution system was reconstructed, extending the lines to many citizens who formerly were without service. As soon as the new plant was completed 24-hour service was introduced, making electric power available for domestic appliances as well as for industrial purposes.

The following year another and larger engine was installed to take care of the growing load. A transmission line was also built and service extended to Clairmont, Sexsmith and Wembley, serving these communities from the central plant at Grande

Prairie. In 1930 this line was extended to Beaver Lodge and Hythe. A further extension to the power house was made in 1932 and a second 300-h.p. Diesel engine installed, bringing the capacity of the plant to 800 h.p. Six communities, totalling over six hundred customers are now receiving reliable service from this plant.

It is indicative of the faith which Canadian Utilities Limited has in the future of this territory that it should expand here so rapidly in the short period of five years. So that the fullest utility of these developments may be realized it is making every effort to supply regular, uninterrupted power with service.

Having provided ample capacity for the needs of its customers for some time to come, it is now concentrating on service, the elimination of radio interference and the proper use of lighting, domestic, commercial and industrial. It is hoped that with the co-operation of its customers rapid progress will be made along these lines.

Alex. D. Wishart

The parents of Alex Wishart came from Guelph, Ontario, in 1870 to Fort Garry, later taking up residence at Portage la Prairie where Alex. was born.

In 1880 they moved on westward, with 17 oxen hitched to Red River Carts, settling down this time at Touchwood Hills until ten years later when they again moved to Dauphin, Man.

Alex. Wishart homesteaded near Swan River in 1898, the first to file in the district. In 1902 he purchased a livery business in Swan River which he continued to conduct until late in 1912 when he sold out and started for the Peace River.

Arriving in Grande Prairie the first of February, 1913, Alex immediately opened a stage business, running during the winters of 1913 and 1914 over the Edson Trail and in the summer of 1914 to Grouard. Late in the winter of 1914 he also put on a stage to High Prairie, which continued during 1915, together with a stage to Beausart which met the steamboat "Beaver" to connect with the end of rail.

Since the arrival of the railway in Grande Prairie Mr. Wishart has operated dray and trucking lines.

He is now serving his second term as a member of the town council, is a prominent Mason, and also takes an active interest in all other community endeavors.

In 1904, at Minitonas, Manitoba, he was married to Miss Grace Sifton who has been an active and helpful wife and takes a leading part in local women's activities.

The Horte Family

Anton Horte and his good wife Ingerid Indegen Horte left their native land in Telemarken, Norway, and came to Nelsville, Polk County, Minnesota, in 1891, where they engaged in dairy farming.

In the summer of 1902 their eldest son, Olaf Horte came to Alberta, settling at Kingman in the mercantile line.

In 1912 when Rev. H. N. Ronning and wife (the latter a sister of Olaf) were planning their trip to the Peace, Olaf decided to accompany them.

Immediately taken with the possibilities of the new Norwegian settlement at Valhalla, Olaf filed on land and on his return early in 1913 erected the first house in the new settlement.

Two years later his parents joined him, coming in from end of steel at High Prairie and continued to reside at Valhalla until their deaths occurred in 1921 and 1928.

For several years Olaf Horte operated stores at Valhalla and the new town of Hythe. In 1931,

accompanied by Mrs. Horte (formerly Miss Ferne Marie Rideout of Calgary who taught school at Sexsmith prior to their marriage in 1926) and their small son, Mr. Horte removed to Wetaskiwin. Subsequently they removed to Vancouver where they now reside.

Of the Horte family, Mrs. (Rev.) H. N. Ronning, Mrs. O. M. Melsness, Chris and Harry still reside at Valhalla, Mrs. Chester A. Ronning at Camrose and Thor. at Kingman. Two are deceased.

Churches

(Continued from Page Eight)

district west of the line, and Mr. Forbes taking the part to the east.

In May 1910, services were begun at Bear Creek, which later became the town of Grande Prairie, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and McQueen Presbyterian church was opened on October 8, 1911. Other points that were ministered to were Bear Lake, Twin Lakes, Spring Creek, Flying Shot, Glen Leslie and Beausart, services at these points being held in various homes. At Spring Creek and Glen Leslie churches were later built.

The work of Dr. Forbes continued until 1925, when the congregation at Grande Prairie entered church union. Dr.

Forbes left for an Ontario pastorate and was succeeded by Rev. Alex Graham as the first minister of the United church. Under his aggressive leadership the local congregation became self-supporting, and the present church was built and dedicated early in 1926.

Rev. Graham was succeeded by Rev. I. C. McKenzie, who later removed to Victoria B.C., and was succeeded by Rev. McCartney Wilson, of Trinidad, B.W.I. Rev. Wilson remained but a few months, when the present pastor, Rev. Nelson Chappel, was called from the graduate school of the University of Chicago in 1930.

It is interesting to note that the territory served by the Rev. Forbes and Rev. C. F. Hopkins has so developed that it is now served by ten ordained ministers and four student ministers of United Church of Canada, and by several ministers of the Presbyterian Church, which re-entered the field in 1929, when Rev. E. A. Wright arrived in September and renewed the work of the continuing Presbyterian church and through his energetic leadership secured the erection of the present fine church on the site so fittingly erected on property that was originally a part of the Forbes homestead. The Presbyterian church has progressed steadily since 1929, and now has five permanent workers in the field, and 19 preaching stations.

OLD TIMERS

Recall with pleasure the service extended by

W. R. Salmers

The Pioneer General Merchant

In Hythe since June, 1927
(In Peace River Country since 1914)

The same painstaking and dependable personal service is still available in the new store. No business is too large or too small, to receive our careful personal attention.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our friends and customers, Merry Christmas.

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The Spirit Of Adventure

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Diligence And Perseverance

Enabled them to accomplish those things which have brought to their district the greatest world honors ever attained by grain growers.

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To continue in a fitting manner the building of the foundation so well and truly laid by them.

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They Can

Qualify as Pioneers of Modern Merchandising
Policies which have saved our customers many dollars

OUR

Hardware and Grocery Stocks

Include a wide range of Fresh Merchandise
moderately priced because of being purchased in large quantities

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A Radio will make an ideal Christmas gift to the family.

Ask for a Demonstration

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Sexsmith Supplies LIMITED

Under the Management of
N. A. UMBACH and GEO. CAMERON
SEXSMITH, ALBERTA

F. J. H. Bedson

Frederick Joseph Hamilton Bedson was born in Toronto, Ontario. After attending the local public and high schools he graduated from Trinity College, Port Hope.

With a background of illustrious military and adventurous parentage, it was but natural that at the age of nineteen he should turn his eyes westward.

Enlisting with the Hudson's Bay Company in the spring of 1887, Mr. Bedson was sent to Dunvegan Post, on the Peace River. It customarily required five years to serve an apprenticeship, but in the case of Fred Bedson, the time was advanced to three, so in 1890 we find him as Factor, not only of the Dunvegan Post, but of what is now known as the Grande Prairie country. He continued to serve the Company until 1914 when he retired to his farm midway between Rycroft and Spirit River adjoining the old original Spirit River Post.

On July 4th, 1907, Mr. Bedson was married to Eliza Johnston at Lesser Slave Lake. Miss Johnston came of pioneer western stock being a native of Lower Fort Garry near what is now Winnipeg, Manitoba. After twenty-five years of happy married life, she passed on in September, 1932, and now rests in the Spirit River Cemetery.

Mr. Bedson's father, Sergt. Samuel Lawrence Bedson was of

true British military stock. He served 20 years in the 1st Batt. 16th Regiment before coming to Canada, then served until June 1865 in the regular garrison at Quebec Citadel before obtaining his discharge. Later removed to Toronto where for several years he served as Chief of Police. He died in 1897 at the age of seventy-five.

F. J. H. Bedson is still in enjoyment of good health and active in all community enterprises, the Anglican Church and the Masonic order.

Mrs. Eliza J. Bedson

Miss Eliza Johnston was born at Lower Fort Garry, her parents Mr. and Mrs. James Johnston having come out from Ontario long ahead of the onward march of western settlement.

Having two brothers, Malcolm and Murdock, who early became interested in the far north-west it is not surprising to find this western girl penetrating into the Peace River country very early in life. For a few years she was with her brother Murdock at Athabasca Landing and later at Athabasca Landing and Shaftesbury assisting in teaching and missionary work.

On July 4th, 1907, she married Fred J. H. Bedson and came to Dunvegan to make her home. For the following twenty-five years the good deeds of this pioneer lady were sung through-

out many miles of the north-land, she being ever ready to set aside her own affairs to administer to the body or soul of those in need.

On September 16th, 1932, she passed peacefully on but left a memory that will long remain green.

Both brothers, Murdock and Malcolm are dead, after useful careers devoted to missionary work. One brother, Samuel survives, living at Wabasca and one sister, Mrs. Fred Webster resides in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Carrell

Coming in over the Edson Trail afoot in June, 1913, Ralph Flynn Carrell lost little time in subscribing to the Grande Prairie Herald and "I have never missed a copy since," to use his own words.

Accompanied by his father Elsha Simpson Carrell, who died in Beaver Lodge in 1926, he homesteaded in the Beaver Lodge district. Since that time, more than twenty-one years ago he has had an active life farming and ranching. Born and raised on the Nebraska plains stock-raising came naturally to Ralph and that is the vocation which gives him the greatest pleasure.

Mrs. Carrell senior in late years has been living in Buena, Washington, where four of her sons and two married daughters reside. One son is dead, another lives in Grants Pass, Oregon, and another married daughter resides in St. Paul, Minn.

Mrs. Ralph F. Carrell is also a real old-timer, having accompanied her parents and family to the Beaver Lodge district in 1909. Miss Ruth Matilda Johnson (now Mrs. Carrell) is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Johnson, whose family came in with the noted bull-outfit.

Miss Johnson and Ralph Carrell were married on October 22, 1915, at Beaver Lodge. They have four fine children, Gwendolyn Olive, Iva Grace, George Patrick and Donald Orris. One daughter, Eunice died in her first year.

Thos. Murray and Family

One of the most familiar figures about town for nearly twenty years is that of Tom Murray, a true son of the Emerald Isle.

For several years after coming to Canada Mr. Murray made his home in Nelson, B.C. where in July of 1902 he met and married Miss E. Kelly.

It was early in 1913 that Mr. and Mrs. Murray with their five small children came over the Athabasca Trail to the Peace River, settling on a farm near Beaver Lodge. Three years later they removed to Grande Prairie where they have continued to reside.

Of their family of eight children, three girls have married, they being Mrs. G. H. Grisfield, Grande Prairie; Mrs. J. C. McNeil, Clairmont and Mrs. H. Hutchins, Medicine Hat. Two daughters, Margaret and Joyce are at home, one son Desmond is in Saskatoon and two sons, Jimmie and Frank are at Blue-sky, where the former is the operator of a prosperous store.

Edward Joseph Heller

Ed. Heller was born in Logan, Iowa, but before coming to the Peace River and settling in the Beaver Lodge district, he farmed in Nebraska, South Dakota and Saskatchewan.

It was in December of 1913 that he left Edson on foot to seek his future home in the north. Filled on his homestead in April, 1914, and was just getting farming operations nicely under way when the Empire's call for men came in July of 1915. Ed enlisted in the 68th Batt., was transferred to the

49th in October, 1916, and finally received his discharge in February of 1919. He immediately returned to his farm.

In October, 1910, he was married to Miss Laura G. David, formerly of Cloverdale, B.C., and they have four lovely children.

In 1916 Mr. Heller moved to New Westminster district, B.C., but the love of the north brought the family back to Beaver Lodge in 1930.

a retail store in the new settlement of Grande Prairie. His store, known as the Workmen's Clothing Store, has been a landmark down through the years, as Mr. Spaner has been known as one of the leading fur buyers of the country.

Mr. Spaner's family continue to reside in Edmonton but his interests are in the Peace and he spends the greater portion of his time here.

Henry John Kirkness

This stalwart native son of the Orkney Islands wandered into the Spirit River country about 1893.

Having always been an ardent lover and handler of purebred cattle, he quickly became attached to the Hudson's Bay Company ranch, then under the supervision of Charles Bremner.

He later married the daughter of a Missionary named Steiner. Mr. Kirkness is the father of a large family of true northern pioneers. In late years he has carried on ranching in the country far to the west of Spirit River, near Gordondale.

Last year, it was his pleasure to be presented to their Excellencies, the Earl and Duchess of Bessborough on their visit to Spirit River and entertained them with interesting tales of the early days along the Peace River.

Jack Spaner

The only Blue Lynx skin ever known to have been bought in the Peace River country, was one of a lot of over two thousand and Lynx skins purchased by Jack Spaner, pioneer fur buyer, in 1915. The skin sold at Montreal for \$105., a record price.

Jack Spaner has spent his lifetime in the north, working out of Edmonton and Edson in the early days. Long before Grande Prairie came into existence Mr. Spaner travelled through the Peace River country, on north into the Fort St. John area on his annual fur buying trips. His experiences, would he but relate them, would be found replete with adventure and excitement.

In January of 1913 he came in over the Edson Trail with a stock of trade goods and opened

Taylor's Confectionery & Restaurant

GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALTA.

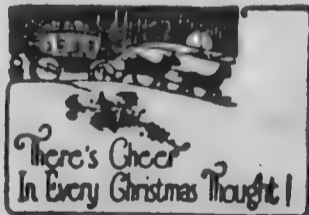
Greetings

Extends greetings to the pioneers of the Great Peace River country. They have developed a splendid district.

In our business dealings with old timers and new comers we adhere to a policy of fair dealing and efficient service.

Taylor's Confectionery & Restaurant

A. TAYLOR, Prop.
Grande Prairie, Alta.



Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And ne'er brought to mind
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And the days of Auld Lang Syne?

E. J. Holtom

HERE SINCE 1910

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Auctioneer

Grande Prairie, Alta.

From PIONEER to PIONEER

To our many friends, both young and old, whose friendly business relationship we have enjoyed over many years may we extend our heartiest greetings and look forward to a future with confidence and goodwill.



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Peter M. Haugen

Coming in over the Lesser Slave Lake Trail, Peter M. Haugen arrived at LaGlace settlement on December 20th, 1915. Selecting a homestead, which he farmed successfully until 1920, he then sold out and returned to his former home at Tofield, to enter the garage business.

Ten years later he returned to LaGlace where he established a garage and machine shop, erected a fine home and is making a real success in his business.

Born at Bardo, Norway, Mr. Haugen came to Canada with his parents in 1894, settling at Tofield, Alta. In May, of 1911, he was married to Miss Amanda Lydia Johnson and they have one daughter, Miss Florence.

C. C. Fleming

Born in Cothbertson County, Nova Scotia, one of a family of nine Clarence Cummings Fleming came to Western Canada as a young man in 1907 in the employ of the Royal Bank of Canada. Some years later he left the employ of the bank to accept a position with the Winnipeg Oil Company, and still later removed further west to Calgary.

In 1912 the call of the north became too strong, and he joined W. Harry Ross (now M.L.A. in Calgary) and B. D. Roberts to

come to the Grande Prairie district, making the trip in over the Edson trail. After proving up a homestead in the Hermit Lake district he went to visit his family, then residing at Medicine Hat, and while there joined up for overseas service with the 175th Battalion.

Returning at the close of the war, he formed a partnership with C.R. Bell and in 1919 purchased the newly opened business of the Robertson Hardware here.

He was married in 1923 to Miss Gladys Thomson, who came here in 1915 with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Thomson. They have one daughter, Phyllis.

Uri Powell

It was March 5th, 1911, that saw the arrival of Uri Powell, of Scenic Heights district, to the Peace River. He came through from Edmonton with team and sleigh, over the Lesser Slave Lake trail and made remarkably good time, the roads being good.

Selecting a homestead near that of Alex Monkman, he quickly demonstrated that the experience gained while working on farms in Manitoba stood him in good stead.

Uri was born in Thornton, Bucks, England, where six brothers and three sisters still reside. His parents are dead.

When the call for men came in 1915, Uri enlisted and for the

duration of war served overseas. After his discharge he went at his farming again and today has one of the finest farms in his district.

In June, 1926, he was married to Miss Ella Richards and they have a fine growing family of three boys and one girl.

Taking a keen interest in community affairs, we find Mr. Powell serving as councillor on Bear Lake Municipal council, director of the Valhalla creamery and a high executive in the local U.F.A. organization.

Alexander Craig

One of the outstanding pure bred livestock men of the Grande Prairie district is Alex. Craig of Wembley.

It is at his farm that field days have been held in recent years for the Junior Calf club shows, attended by hundreds of farmers from all over the district who are interested in fine cattle and horses.

Mr. Craig was born in Marykirk, Scotland, and came to Canada in 1902, locating in the Calgary district for a number of years.

Early in 1910 he became interested in the Peace River, leaving Edmonton in February over the Slave-Grouard trail, and arriving in Grande Prairie on the last day of April. He selected a homestead just ten miles west, to which has been added considerable land as the opportunity arose.

Mr. Craig has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He was elected to the first council of Bear Lake Municipality in 1913, was president of the Grande Prairie Livestock Shipping association from its inception in 1917, until he retired in 1932 and also served as U.F.A. director for Peace River from 1926 to 1929.

Joseph Endore Germain

A native son of St. Anne de la Perade, in the Champlain district of Quebec, where several of his family still reside, Joseph Germain came west to Edmonton in April, 1902.

Following his trade of harness-maker, he heard much about the vast northland known as the Peace River country from trappers and fur buyers.

On January 10th, of 1905, he set out for the north and that summer squatted on a part of the present townsite of Grande Prairie. Through some misunderstanding, he let it go after the surveyors came through and later located on land in the Spirit River district where he is now farming.

The first job Mr. Germain had in the north was with Allev Brick at Peace River. After trapping all winter, he joined a survey party for the summer months. Each winter he put in trapping, one season with Arthud Gunn who now lives near Clairmont.

Of his early day experiences, Mr. Germain regards the pastime of catching wild horses, of which there were hundreds roaming the district, the most exciting. Later he became a freighter for the Hudson's Bay company and Revillon Freres, and his trail experiences were varied.

L. G. Fredette

Dr. L. G. Fredette, veterinary surgeon, first came to the Peace River country in 1912. At that time he landed at Peace River Crossing, where the total white population numbered five men and two women, and the only "hotel" had no beds, each guest supplying his own bed roll which was spread on the floor at night.

Believing that a railway through the mountains was an early possibility, and that opportunity lay further west, Dr. Fredette pushed on to Hudson's

Hope, where he homesteaded, April 1, 1912. He recalls that Alex. Taylor was at that time in charge of the Hudson's Bay post at the Hope, and it was there a short time later that he met Dr. Wm. Greene, who also took a homestead.

Dr. Fredette visited Grande Prairie that summer to file his homestead, but it was not until 1922 that he finally established his residence here.

He was married in September, 1929, to Miss Edith Hibbs, then matron of the local hospital, and they have one daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar H. Foster

In the fall of 1910, Oscar H. Foster with a team of ponies and buggy drove from Edmonton over the Swan Hills, Grouard, Peace River Crossing, Dunvegan route to the Grande Prairie district.

During the ensuing weeks he covered practically all of the district as far west as the Red Willow river, finally selecting land a little south of where Sexsmith now stands. He then drove back to Edmonton, and during the winter assembled his outfit, which included oxen, in preparation for the trek over the Edson Trail in the early summer of 1911.

Originally from Fergus Falls, Minnesota, Mr. Foster had later farmed in North Dakota, near Grafton and later still in Manitoba and near Watson, Sask.

It was in Watson that he met and on March 3rd, 1911, married Miss Magna Nabseth, who for her honeymoon came west with her husband and then over the memorable Edson Trail to her new home in the Peace. Mr. and Mrs. Foster have four fine sons, all born at Sexsmith.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cameron

Lachute, Quebec was the natal village of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cameron who settled in the Lake Saskatoon district in July 1914.

Mr. Cameron, who died in April, 1921, was born in 1858 one of a large family, most of whom survive and are living in the East.

Mrs. Cameron was a daughter of Duncan and Flora MacRae (both now deceased) and has a brother in Melfort, Sask., another in Rainy River, Ont., and one deceased and two sisters in Black Hawk, Ont.

Leaving Quebec early in 1911 Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and family removed to Otter, B.C. where they resided three years before coming to the Peace River, making the long trek over the Edson Trail with teams and wagons.

Three sons, Malcolm, Peter and Gordon are at home with their widowed mother, Mrs. F. Boyd resides at Wembley, Mrs. F. B. Keith in Vancouver and Mrs. Larson in Pennsylvania.

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Is now available in any quantity from a two-bushel sack to a carload. All seed grains are of high germination test and all relatively free from wild oats, conforming with government seed standard as grade No. 1.

Registered Victory Oats, 50c per bushel and up
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I have enjoyed the meeting
with old timers and
new comers

Our business success has
only been achieved by the support
given by all.

To Old Timers and new, in
town or country home, I have
enjoyed life more by having
known you.

My hearty congratulations
go out to all (even the banks)
for the splendid way they have
faced boom and depression
alike.

Your co-operation for future
home furnishings is respectfully
solicited.

Thanks for past favors

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Grande Prairie

Jas. B. Oliver

James Bowes Oliver was born on a farm near Listowel, Ontario but early in life developed an ambition to go into business in Western Canada.

In 1905 he came to Winnipeg and for a year was with the Otis Fenson Elevator company. His next move was to Portage la Prairie and a position with Brown Brothers, furniture and undertaking. In 1907 he again moved west, this time to Calgary where he followed the same line and at times dabbled in carpentry work.

Then followed five years with the Blowey Henry company at Edmonton, during which he spent considerable of his time in the undertaking and ambulance work.

In 1914 Mr. Oliver came to Peace River Crossing and became so enthusiastic about the north country, the following year he moved to and settled in Grande Prairie, where he took a position with Crummy Brothers.

Enlisting for overseas service in 1917, he received his discharge in the spring of 1919 and immediately returned and opened in the furniture and undertaking lines for himself. In addition to his successful business Mr. Oliver is farming on quite a heavy scale in the Flying Shot Lake section.

In 1920 he was married to Miss Annie Partlow, whose family had come to the district in 1911. A family of four fine daughters have come to the Oliver home.

Geo. W. Jebb

George Woolliscroft Jebb left his native heath in Staffordshire England, in 1895, to engage in farming in Saskatchewan.

On the outbreak of the South African war, he enlisted and served with distinction for its duration.

While enroute back to Canada, Mr. Jebb stopped over in England to marry Miss Alice Beatrice Boulton, also a native of Staffordshire.

The Jebbs made their home in Toronto, Ontario, for a number of years, until in July of 1911 George became convinced that opportunity awaited them in the Peace River.

From Edson he came in over the Edson Trail with Percy U. Clubine and selected a homestead near the latter's. In October of that year Mr. Jebb walked out over the Edson Trail and proceeded to Toronto. In July of 1912 he returned with Mrs. Jebb and their two sons, Harry and Edgar. Another son, Colin and daughter, Violet were born in Grande Prairie.

Harry Jebb, the eldest son, met an untimely end two years ago at Great Bear Lake, when the motor launch he and three companions were in, was destroyed by the explosion of its engine.

Mr. Jebb takes an active interest in all community endeavors, being especially active in Canadian Legion and Old Timers

association work. He is also one of the outstanding farmers of the district.

The Carveth Family

Arthur William Carveth, late Elizabeth Cornish to the altar at Bowmanville, Ontario on December 4th, 1890 and the happy couple established their home in Leskard, Ontario, shortly after.

Their union was blessed with one girl, Rita B.M., and three boys, Cecil R., Rupert H. and Gervald V. all of whom are living in the Grande Prairie district with the exception of Cecil who resides at Newcastle, Ont.

Mr. Carveth's parents are deceased but he has a brother a physician residing in Toronto and a sister, also a physician Dr. Annie E. Higbee who spent a number of years in the Peace but now resides in Newcastle, Ont.

Mrs. Carveth's parents are likewise deceased but five brothers and three sisters are making their home in Ontario.

Early in 1911 Mr. Carveth and his son Rupert became conscious of the opportunities awaiting in the Peace River, so on June 1st they started west with a carload of settlers effects. The trip in from steel-head over the Edson Trail was long and beset with many difficulties but on June 25th they arrived and selected land at Five Mile Creek just east of Grande Prairie.

Hearing that a four day celebration would be held at Lake Saskatoon starting July 1st, they went to the little settlement surrounding the Hudson's Bay post, meeting practically all the settlers in the district.

At two o'clock on the morning of July 15th, Mr. Carveth and his son were awaiting the opening of the new land office in Grande Prairie, where they succeeded in filing on the lands selected previously, being the first to file. The office was opened by A. S. McLean (later killed overseas) and Joshua Fletcher, the first homestead inspector who still lives in the district.

During the next month, during which they lived in a tent on their land, the two Carveths were busy getting out logs and some-sawn lumber from Robert Cochrane's mill, for the erection of their home. On August 15th, they made a trip to Edson to bring back another car of settlers effects Cecil Carveth had brought west. The return trip was very eventful but accomplished despite many difficulties.

On the return to Grande Prairie it was to find the new Presbyterian church erected by Rev. Alex Forbes was open and the new store and post office had been opened by Mr. Alphaeus Patterson and his son Jack. The first Agricultural Fair had also been held in their absence, with Dave Axon acting as secretary-treasurer.

About December 1st, after

completion of house and barn, Mr. Carveth left for Ontario to bring out his family. On February first, accompanied by Mrs. Carveth, Rita and Gerald, and with another car of settlers effects, Mr. Carveth once more set out for his new home in the north. He was also accompanied on this trip by his sister, Dr. Annie E. Higbee, her husband and son. The Edson Trail was much improved at this time and the big outfit came through without incident.

In 1913 and 1914 further trips were made to Edson for supplies, in 1915 to High Prairie and later to Spirit River. With the

coming of the railroad in 1916 the long supply trips were ended. In the summer of 1916 Mr. Carveth shipped his first carload of wheat, all grown previously having found a ready market with the incoming settlers.

In 1915 Mr. Carveth acted as election clerk for the plebiscite on prohibition. In 1912 when the rural municipality of Grande Prairie was organized, he was elected to the council and chosen as Reeve. That first council consisted of John Harris, Mr. Schroeder, John Shortreed, John Outway and Mr. Carveth. Dave Axon was chosen as secretary-treasurer. The first

council made a flat assessment of \$1,600 on each quarter section on which a tax of \$2.50 was applied, together with one day's road work, which enabled the municipality to conduct its business for several years.

Since January of 1930, when Mr. and Mrs. Carveth took up their residence in Victoria, B.C., they have been sadly missed as their activity in church (United) and all community affairs had been far reaching and always for the common weal.

But like many of the pioneers their influence and example will long remain to encourage those who followed after.

BEYOND DISPUTE

*The achievements of the
Great Peace River Coun-
try are many and varied*

To those of us who migrated to this much-lauded land of plenty in the comforts of modern transportation modes, it is hard and difficult to comprehend the trials and tribulations of those dauntless souls who endured untold discomforts in order that those near and dear to them might enjoy a more leisurely life.

These heroic peoples who travelled unblazed trails to penetrate forests, cross expansive lakes, ford angry, swollen rivers, in order to lay the ever-lasting foundations of a new territory—to establish new homes and add to the vastness of an already vast empire—they were builders in the truest sense of the word.

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For these 17 years past your Rexall Drug Store has endeavored to give service and on up to the present day this is our attitude to our many customers.

At this time we wish to make public acknowledgement of our appreciation of your valued patronage.

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Phone 162

Rev. Father Josse

In the long history of the settlement and development of the Grande Prairie district there can be found no keener intellect or more active participant in all that was designed for the social advancement and welfare of the community than Rev. Father Josse, for nearly thirty years the pioneer cleric of the Roman Catholic Church in the Grande Prairie district. A thorough and clever student, accomplished in music and the arts, Father Josse contributed largely to the social life of the district, and in addition took a keen interest in all manner of development work.

Alexander John Mary Josse was born in Saint Herblain, Brittany, France. Completing his public school training at 13, followed five years in college at Notre Dame de Lion (Lorraine) and then seven years special training at the Gregorian University in Rome, Italy.

On completion of his training for the Priesthood, Father Josse was sent directly to Canada and to the Peace River country arriving at Dunvegan, October 11th, 1903.

His own story of the development of the Catholic Church in the Grande Prairie district follows:

"The policy of the Catholic Church in former times was to establish missions in the proximity of the Hudson's Bay posts where at least twice a year the roaming Indians would all gather; in the fall to get their supplies for the winter's trapping and in spring to dispose of their catch. On such occasions the missionary would hold special services and see to the spiritual needs of his people. When I arrived in Dunvegan in 1903 I witnessed the last gathering of the Indians at that post for the 'Great Feast of the Autumn,' as they call it, All Saints Day.

"Dunvegan, in times past, was the most important post in the whole Peace River region. A Catholic mission was established there some seventy years ago. Grande Prairie was first visited by the Catholic Priest from Dunvegan. He would set out with pack horses and go on south through Spirit River, take the old White Mountain trail and reach the Hudson's Bay post on upper Bear Creek and from there get in touch with the Indians who were then the undisputed owners of the Grande Prairie lands.

"It was only in 1898 that a residence, serving as house and chapel, was built on the shores of Lake Saskatoon on the land now occupied by Leo Ferguson. In 1904 Father LeTreste was appointed as resident priest. In 1908 the mission house at Lake Saskatoon was torn down, hauled to and re-built across Bear Creek, immediately west of the present townsite of Grande

Prairie.

"The Catholic population at that time consisted of about twenty families of Cree half-breeds located around Flying shot settlement and also of a few white settlers newly arrived. In 1909 Father LeTreste was replaced by Father Alac who with the aid of Brother M. Mathias now at Sturgeon Lake mission, built the first church of the Grande Prairie district.

"In 1911 I was appointed in charge of the Grande Prairie mission. Settlers were coming in fast. With the help of my assistant Rev. Father Hautin, now deceased, we made it our daily work to locate the newly arrived Catholics. It meant repeated journeys on horseback—that being the easiest mode of travelling. Two posts were opened, Lake Saskatoon and Kleskun Lake, with regular Sunday services.

"It will surprise no one if I say that in early missionary days, the priest lived very much as the settlers did. Besides brushing up his theology and studying languages as best he could, he had to know how to cook a meal, use a gun, wield an axe, seed a garden, make hay with crude tools, dig potatoes, feed the stock, milk the cow, wash clothes, sew on buttons and at times attempt tailoring operations on a larger scale—a combination, a little surprising to one just out of seminary but wonderfully calculated to keep one's complexion, good health and good humor.

"Besides attending to the needs of the growing Catholic population in and around Grande Prairie, we were forced by circumstances not to neglect another field opening one hundred miles west of us—the Pouce Coupe country. In the fall of 1909, when I was still in charge of the Spirit River mission, I had made a visit to Pouce Coupe over the pack trail route. On the 17th of October, 1909, the first Catholic service was held at Mr. Tremblay's house at the confluence of the Dawson Creek and the Pouce Coupe river. In 1911 and 1912 I made my yearly visits to Pouce Coupe from Grande Prairie by way of Lake Saskatoon, Beaver Lodge, Horse Lake, etc. There was no highway then, no bridges over the creeks, no corduroy on soft places and with the best of luck it took two and a half days to cover the distance that now can be made by car in four hours. In 1913 a residence was built in Pouce Coupe and a resident priest installed.

"My activities were again limited to the Grande Prairie section where the development of the Catholic church was following the trend of immigration. Three new posts were founded at Rio Grande, Buffalo Lakes and Clairmont, where Father Wagner, my assistant at the time had churches erected.

"From 1917 to 1919, during

my absence overseas, the Grande Prairie mission was in charge of Father Deman. On my return from the war and after the burning down of the mission residence, it was decided to build the church and rectory in the town itself. From 1920 to 1921, Father Rault, who lately died at Lake Wabascaw, took over the direction of Grande Prairie. From 1921 to 1925 Father Bocquene conducted the work in a very able manner. In 1925 and 1926 Father LeTreste took charge. In 1926 I was again sent to Grande Prairie. I found upon a rival that besides the central post of Grande Prairie, there were four outposts regularly visited on Sundays; Sexsmith (where the Clairmont church had been moved), Buffalo Lakes, Rio Grande and Kleskun Hill. Under the direction of Father Serrand in charge of mission work outside of town, two new churches were built at Hythe and Webster. At that time the district of Rio Grande was detached from Grande Prairie and entrusted to the care of Rev. Dufresne, as parish priest.

"In 1927 a separate school was built in the town of Grande Prairie. The Sisters of Holy Cross are in charge of it.

"In 1931 Father Lajole came and took Father Serrand's place. Besides his regular Sunday work, he made it his special endeavor to trace and discover many scattered Catholics unable to attend church. In 1931 I received my appointment as pro-

fessor of dogma at the Seminary of Gravelbourg (Sask.) and was replaced at Grande Prairie by Father Puchniak, who remained there a year, giving the parish and community the benefit of his activity in many branches.

"With the departure of Father Puchniak was closed the last chapter of the Oblate Fathers' activities in the Grande Prairie region. The task has been handed over to the Redemptorists.

Fathers under whose guidance the church will continue to progress.

"May I say in closing that I count my years in Grande Prairie as the best in my life, for two reasons; 1st, because I was then best physically and could give of my best; 2nd, and mainly, because during my long stay I met agreeable people generally and many friends whose kindness has helped so very much."



Rev. Father Josse appears in the above group, at the extreme left. The above plate from a photograph taken at the Old Mission Church on Bear Creek in 1916, showing, left to right: Rev. Father Josse, His Excellency Bishop Grouard, the late Captain Rev. Father Artes (uncle of Mrs. Croken), Rev. Father Wagner, and P. V. Croken.

23 YEARS OF SERVICE

1911 - - 1934

We look back with pleasure on the twenty-three years we have spent in business in Grande Prairie, from 1911 to 1920 under the firm name of "Pioneer Tailors" and from 1920 to the present as Charles Stredulinsky.

We are grateful for the friendship and fellowship that has been extended to us in our relations with the people of this community.

Many of the early settlers still have their work done at this shop, and at this time we wish to pay tribute to their splendid spirit of courage and enterprise which has resulted in making this district one of the best in Alberta.

Northern Alberta's Most Widely Known Tailor

The service offered in any community reflects the standard of citizenship therein, and it has been our aim to offer the people here a tailoring service worthy of the town and district.

DRESSWELL CLOTHES . . 20th Century Clothes . .

We make a Specialty of FRENCH DRY CLEANING. Let us do your work



A WELL DRESSED MAN OF TODAY

GREETINGS

The Peace River Meat Co. extends greetings to old and young who helped to start and are still building the town and district of Grande Prairie.

Peace River Meat Co., Ltd.

Peace River — Grande Prairie — Sexsmith — Beaver Lodge

SUITS
\$22.
AND UP

Chas. Stredulinsky

MERCHANT TAILOR
FRENCH DRY-CLEANING

PHONE
111
P.O. BOX
G. Prairie

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Borden

Homesteader, rancher, lumberman and horseman covers some of the activities of Lee Borden who in his forty-six years on this earth has enjoyed experiences which would have furnished material to a writer of thrilling westerns.

The late Mrs. Nell Borden also had a life full of activities rarely experienced by one of the gentler sex. For nineteen years of her life here in the north she was the life of gatherings, especially in the outdoor category. Since her untimely death in March, 1933, her spontaneous good nature and keen appreciation of every class of entertainment has been sadly missed.

Lee Borden was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He has two brothers, Fred at Valhalla Centre, Ellis at Laidlaw, B.C., and three sisters, Mrs. Bert Lambert at Hythe, Mrs. Ted Miller at Hythe and Mrs. Ed. Finnen, with whom his aged father lives at Edson.

Following a period of "seeing the world" Lee settled down to farming in the Stettler district. Again becoming restless, he came to the Peace River in 1911 and settled on land north of Valhalla Centre. In the years following his time has been

well taken up with farming, ranching, lumbering, horse breeding and racing.

In 1912 he went outside and married Jennie Glennell McIlwaine, familiarly known to a host of friends as "Nell". Mrs. Borden did not come in to permanently reside until 1914.

She was born in Salesville, Ohio. After graduating from the local high school she attended university at Pittsburg, Penn. and later became a teacher at Duff's Mercantile college at that place.

Always keenly interested in athletics, after her first marriage she took up riding and soon became a noted equestrienne and from that it was but a step to engage in and gain new honors in that most thrilling of all outdoor sports, "Broncho Busting."

After taking up her abode in the Peace Mrs. Borden was a familiar figure at all the stampedes and rodeos of the north, quickly winning and until her death holding the title of "Champion Lady Bronco Ride."

On March 29th, 1933, Mrs. Borden succumbed to an ailment from which she had been suffering for several years.

Today Lee Borden goes about his duties with saddened mien, sadly missing the loving helpmeet who for so long was his wife, partner and pal.

W. S. O. English

(Spirit River)

William Samuel Osborne English was one of six children born to Richard and Jane Ann English at the little settlement of Michael's Bay, Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Both parents have passed on but three brothers and two sisters are still residents of Ontario.

"Bill" English, as he has been familiarly known throughout the Spirit River country, caught the Peace River fever while located in Lethbridge.

On May 18th, 1898, with two companions Robert H. Potts and Stewart English, a cousin, equipped with a string of packhorses and outfit of supplies, he left Lethbridge for the long trek into the unknown north. After leaving Edmonton they crossed the Athabasca river at Fort Assiniboine and followed the Swan Hills trail to Lesser Slave Lake. Here, the party struck west, coming through the Sturgeon Lake country and arriving on La Grande Prairie in October.

Their first campsite was on Bear Creek about where the highway traffic bridge now spans it. Later they moved to the mouth of Big Mountain Creek, on the Wapiti River where they camped for the winter.

In early spring the party proceeded north until they reached the Spirit River, where Bill English elected a homesite which he continues to occupy closely the town of Rycroft.

In partnership with H. E. Calkins, (who came in 1900) Bill English spent a most active life in lumbering, freighting, trading and hotel lines, for more than 20 years. Their stopping place and trading post, operated under the name of English & Calkins was one of the most important in the country at one time. Recent years have been devoted entirely to looking after his farming interests.

Mr. English was one of the founders, and for ten years president of the Spirit River Agricultural Society and still takes a very keen interest in its activities. He was also a member of the first Spirit River Municipal Council, is an active supporter of the United Church, a valued member of the I.O.O.F., Rebekah and Masonic orders and until real recent years, when failing health has restricted his activities, always to the forefront in all community endeavors.

Miss Ruth M. English, a daughter born in 1907 came north to join her father in 1915. In 1917 Mr. English was married again, the present Mrs. English having been Miss Maud A. McNulty.

Percy J. Tooley

To the Peace River during the past fifty years have come men and women from almost every country and walk of life.

Many have met with success. Many have erected lasting memorials to keep green the good deeds they modestly, but effectively accomplished while here.

To some has come the opportunity of service to Country or Community in the carrying out of which they have acquitted themselves with honor.

Percy John Tooley can qualify honorably in all these categories. He has proved himself to be a sound citizen, has amassed moderate success in his chosen profession and adopted land and has received the signal honor of serving seven years on the town council of Grande Prairie, followed by two years in the Chief Magistrate's chair. For many years he has been an active worker and official in the Grande Prairie Agricultural Society. He organized and carried on successfully for seven years the great Northern Winter Carnival. A keen devotee to golfing, curling and kindred sports, he is generally to be found in the thick of these activities. An indefatigable member of the

Board of Trade, he has also been in the forefront of the majority of its worthwhile activities.

Born in Whitwell, Herts, England, where his aged mother and one sister still resides, he is one of a family of six girls and six boys, all of whom are living. His father, James Francis Tooley died in 1918.

Coming to Canada in 1905, P. J. Tooley engaged in farming, railroading, lumbering and mining prior to coming over the Edson Trail to Grande Prairie in January, 1912. He made the long trail with oxen and still recalls many of the incidents of that trip.

On arrival at Grande Prairie he immediately located a homestead less than two miles north-east. Later for two years he served on the fire range patrol on the Edson Trail.

Since 1920 Mr. Tooley has been engaged in the real estate and insurance business in town, although he still maintains an extensive farming interest.

A member of the Anglican church, the A.F. & A.M., and I.O.O.F. orders and an active worker on most all civic enterprises keeps him constantly busy.

In 1928, Mr. Tooley officiated as the delegate from the Grande Prairie Board of Trade (the only one from Peace River) on the Canadian National Railways Marketing tour of Great Britain

and Denmark. The purpose of the tour was to study British markets for Canadian products and also the Danish dairying methods which had enabled them to capture the British markets so completely. On this tour Mr. Tooley did some considerable publicity work for the Peace River.

Geo. T. Cranston and Family

Mr. George Thomas Cranston was born in Middleport, Ontario, while his good wife, Miss Alice I. Braybrook was a native daughter of Brantford, Ontario.

They were married at Kelvin, Ontario, on April 13th, 1904, where their four children, Velma, Frederick, Peter and Charlie were later born.

During the late summer of 1911 the Cranston family embarked on their great adventure, headed for the Peace River. Coming in over the Edson Trail, they arrived in Grande Prairie district during November of that year and immediately took up land in the Wembley district where they have continued to reside.

The Cranston farm and home dispels any doubts as to the success attained, despite the hardships of early days. The welcome sign is prominently displayed and their friends are legion.

ESTABLISHED IN 1921

Sexsmith Flour MillC. H. Warren & Son
Sexsmith Alta.**Our Superior Flour**

Has proven in the most exacting of baking tests to produce a high grade bread rich in nutriment

Exchange Wheat for Flour

You can exchange your wheat for flour on basis of 4½ bushels of good milling wheat Grades 1 to 4 for one hundred weight of flour.

WE DO YOUR
CHOPPING AT 3c PER CWT.
GRISTING AT 25c PER BUSHEL

CAL'S COFFEE SHOP
Sexsmith Alta.

The place to get wholesome meals and lunches in quiet surroundings and at reasonable prices.

Extends The Greetings Of The Season

Pause a few minutes in the hurry of Christmas shopping for a cup of GOOD TEA or COFFEE and look over our fresh stocks of

NOVELTY CANDIES BOXED CHOCOLATES
CIGARS CIGARETTES TOBACCOS

Acknowledging the Foresight of the PIONEERS of the Peace River Country**Grande Prairie Tailor Shop**

MIKE HARVEY, Prop.

CLEANING, PRESSING, REPAIRING

MADE-TO-MEASURE SUITS AND OVERCOATS

GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALTA.

Progress...

Although our business is of recent origin we are pleased to state that the support of the public has placed us on an equal basis with some of the old established firms.

Our policy of giving honest value at reasonable prices has brought a volume of business and a class of trade that is gratifying to us.

We thank you for your patronage.

Ye Waffle Shoppe

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lockyer

Phone No. 24

Grande Prairie

Rev. and Mrs. A. S. Forbes

Alexander Forbes was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, one of a family of six children to come to Peter and Isabella McKenzie Forbes, both of whom are now deceased. Three brothers and two sisters still reside in Aberdeen.

While a student in the University of Aberdeen, Alex Forbes determined to become a foreign missionary. On graduation, he immediately offered himself for service in Africa but the church board decided to send him to Western Canada.

In December, 1894, the young missionary came to Canada and was immediately appointed to the Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta charge.

During the following year he was married to Miss Agnes Sorrel, who had just arrived from Montrose, Scotland. For the next fifteen years, Rev. and Mrs. Forbes labored among the settlers, covering a wide area and forming many warm friendships.

On the request of the Presbyterian church board, Rev. and Mrs. Forbes in August, 1909, made a trip into the Peace River country, which was then receiving considerable attention and much new settlement. They

ERRATA

Despite every precaution some errors have appeared in the preceding four sections of this issue.

In section two, in the story of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. E. Clarke, their son Gerald was born in 1917.

In section one, in the story of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roberts, it was stated one of their daughters was married to L. C. Porteous, whereas it should have been Goff Porteous.



THE LATE MRS. A. S. FORBES

came back with a great vision of the vast possibilities of that new land, and so it was not surprising they were selected to carry the work of the church to the Peace.

Early in February of 1910, with a temperature around 40 below zero, the Rev. and Mrs. Forbes set out from Fort Saskatchewan in a caboose on sleighs, for their new charge, six hundred miles distant over a hazardous and little known trail.

Seventy-three days later they arrived on the spot that is now known as Grande Prairie. When asked to give a few comments on that memorable journey, the Rev. Forbes said:

"Many are still on the Prairie who faced the rigors of the trail and who will readily remember the struggle there was in getting over, or rather through, the Smoky river. One is tempted to mention the names of several

who were of great help to their fellow travellers during these trying days. Suffice it for the present to mention the names of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford, in whose home at Flying Shot we found a safe and comfortable retreat for several months. We then moved over to the townsite to help make the beginnings of the town of Grande Prairie by erecting a small church and hospital. Church services were also begun and carried on at various points in the country."

On August 27th, 1917, the growing young community was shocked with the news of the death of Mrs. Forbes, who in

the seven years of residence had gathered to her the hearts of pioneers from all over the district.

A little incident, occurring during the ceremony of the laying of the corner stone for the new hospital by Mrs. Forbes, is worthy of relating. As the stone was being placed in position, in some unaccountable manner a slip occurred, and blood sprang from her hand, in a sense attesting to the giving of even her life blood for the hospital.

Mrs. Forbes was born in Montrose, Scotland and as a young girl she held several mission appointments in her native town

and in Glasgow and Aberdeen. After marriage to Rev. Forbes, she realized her ambition of ministering to the sick and afflicted in both body and soul.

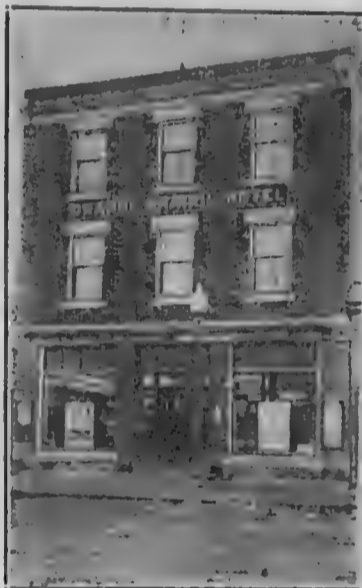
Four years later Mr. Forbes married Miss C. Smith, who had held several appointments and latterly acted as superintendent of nursing in the health department of the Alberta government.

In 1915 Rev. and Mrs. Forbes left for the East and for the following seven years served at Teeswater, Ontario.

Mr. Forbes accepted a call in 1932 to Sutton West, Ontario, where he and Mrs. Forbes now reside.

When Travelling In The Peace

PLAN TO STAY AT THE MOST UP-TO-DATE HOTELS



GRANDE PRAIRIE HOTEL, GRANDE PRAIRIE,

THE GRANDE PRAIRIE HOTEL
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THE MURRAY HOTEL
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WARSPITE HOTEL
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DONALD HOTEL
ST. PAUL, ALTA.

All owned and operated by Frank Donald, premier hotel man of the North.



FIRST C.G.I.T. GROUP IN GRANDE PRAIRIE

Reading left to right, standing: Mrs. D. W. Patterson, Eleanor Clifford, now Mrs. McNaughton, Sudbury, Ont.; Dorothy Crerar, now Mrs. J. Penson; Norina Harmer, now Mrs. Stone, Vancouver; Erma Connors, now Mrs. Beauchair; Margaret Robertson, now Mrs. T. A. Hassard; Jessie Wishart, now Mrs. A. Elliott, and the late Mrs. Dr. Forbes.

Left to right, sitting: Naida Boyd, now in Kingston, Ont.; Jean Clark, now Mrs. Richard Arlen, Los Angeles; Norah Eagar, Ruth Robertson, Iola Stephen, now Mrs. Greentree and Dorcas Macklin, Rio Grande.

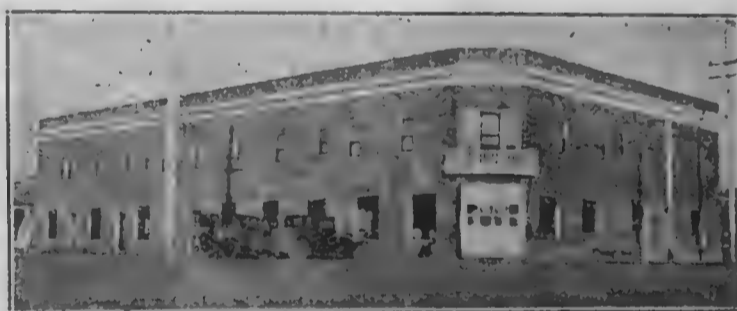


Dr. A. O. Sproule
Pioneer Dentist

of the Peace River Country

Wishes to be remembered to his many friends and acquaintances

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DONALD, HOTEL, HYTHE



GRANDE UNION HOTEL, ATHABASCA

All modern conveniences coupled with intelligent management makes each "a home away from home"

You will be delighted with the fine accommodation provided, and pleased with the low rates charged

THE TOWN OF Grande Prairie

"The Metropolis of The Great Peace River Country"

POPULATION 1,600

Incorporated a Village in 1914

:: ::

Incorporated a Town in 1919

Grande Prairie

EDUCATIONAL

Educational facilities consist of a 9-room fully-equipped Public School employing eight teachers; a \$75,000 High School of eight rooms employing three teachers and a three-room Separate School, all of which are constructed of brick.

There are: Six Implement Warehouses, Four Automobile Salesrooms and Garages, Six Wholesalers, Five Oil Companies, Two Lumber Yards, One Sash and Door Factory, a Sub-Land Office and Immigration Hall are also located here, a 40-Bed fully modern brick built Municipal Hospital, Court House, Liquor Vendor, a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada, the Imperial Bank of Canada, and the Bank of Montreal, Three Hotels, an efficient Fire Brigade, an Electric Light and Power Plant delivering a 24-hour service, Five Churches, up-to-date Moving Picture Theatre, Four Grain Elevators, besides numerous stores, financial offices, an airport which is capable of being used by commercial airplanes.



Starting to Build the Town in 1911

Today the Town of Grande Prairie is the largest centre of population in the world-famed Peace River Country. It has all the conveniences of a modern town. It is located on the Northern Alberta Railway, approximately 400 miles north-west of Edmonton, and 382 miles by highway. It is the wholesale distributing centre for the South Peace River Country.

Fifteen miles away are located the home of the World's Wheat Timothy, Pea and Oat Kings.

For Further Information Write

THE TOWN OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

ROBT. KEYS, Secretary-Treasurer

Mayor P. J. Tooley, Councillors L. C. Porteous, O. B. Harris, C. Spencer, J. H. Charters, H. Shaver, Alex. Wishart.

Information

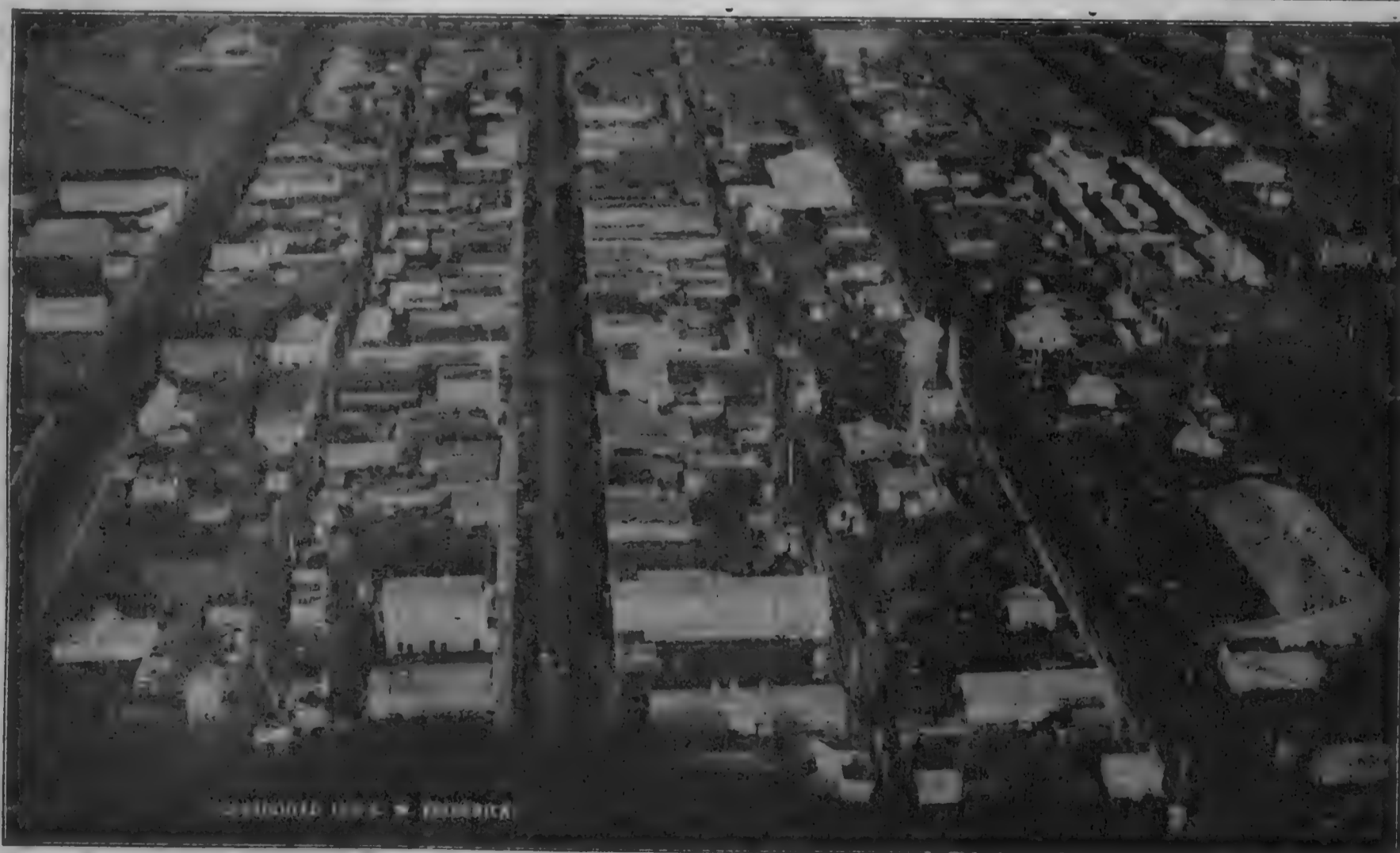
Grande Prairie is the home of one of the most actively functioning Boards of Trade in Alberta. Letters asking for information re the Grande Prairie portion of the Peace River Country will be answered immediately by the secretary.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Although a comparatively new country, the district boasts many of the modern conveniences usually found in only the older settlements. Good automobile roads radiate in all directions. The telephone system, urban and rural, is modern and up-to-date. Two telegraph lines operate throughout the territory, connecting it with Edmonton. Public and High Schools maintain a high standard of education. Community Leagues, Co-operative Associations, Social Gatherings and Athletic Competitions provide plenty of good, clean amusement and recreation.

There are seventy-two commercial men living in town.

Choice residential lots can be purchased from the town at very reasonable prices.



Airplane View of the Business Section of Grande Prairie, 1930

